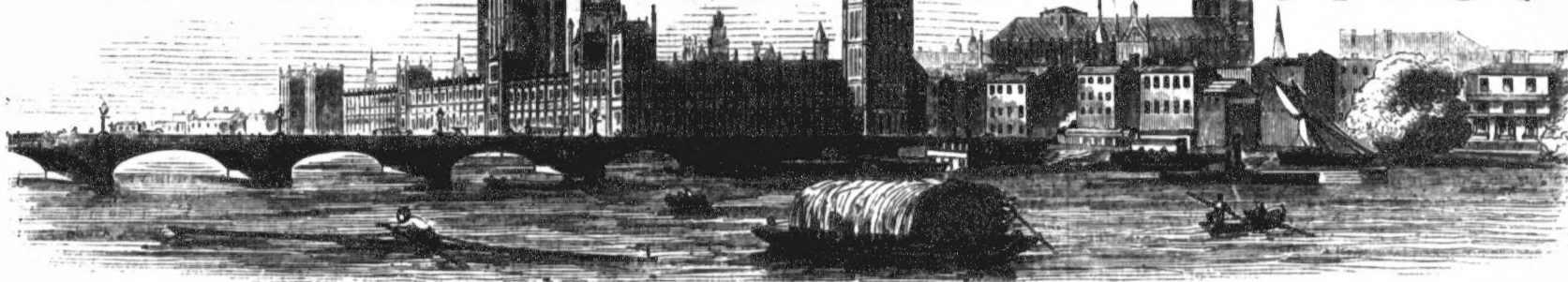


THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWS.



No. 326.—NEW SERIES 46.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 1867.

[ONE PENNY.]

THE DIABOLICAL FENIAN PLOT.

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP THE HOUSE OF DETENTION AT CLERKENWELL.

The whole neighbourhood of Clerkenwell was startled at a quarter to four on Friday afternoon by an explosion, which resembled an earthquake. The houses were shaken violently, the windows in many cases were broken, and in some instances persons were thrown to the ground by the violence of the concussion. The scene of the explosion proved to be the wall of the House of Detention, opposite Corporation-row, some sixty feet of which were knocked down, and it was not long before the discovery was made that numerous persons were seriously, and some fatally injured, and that the calamity had been wilfully caused. It was at once attributed to the Fenians, the motive alleged being a desire to rescue Burke and Casey, who are confined in the prison, and facts which have since come to light go to show that this theory is the correct one.

The clearest account of what actually took place is given by a boy about thirteen years of age, named John Abbott, who is now in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, happily not very much hurt. This

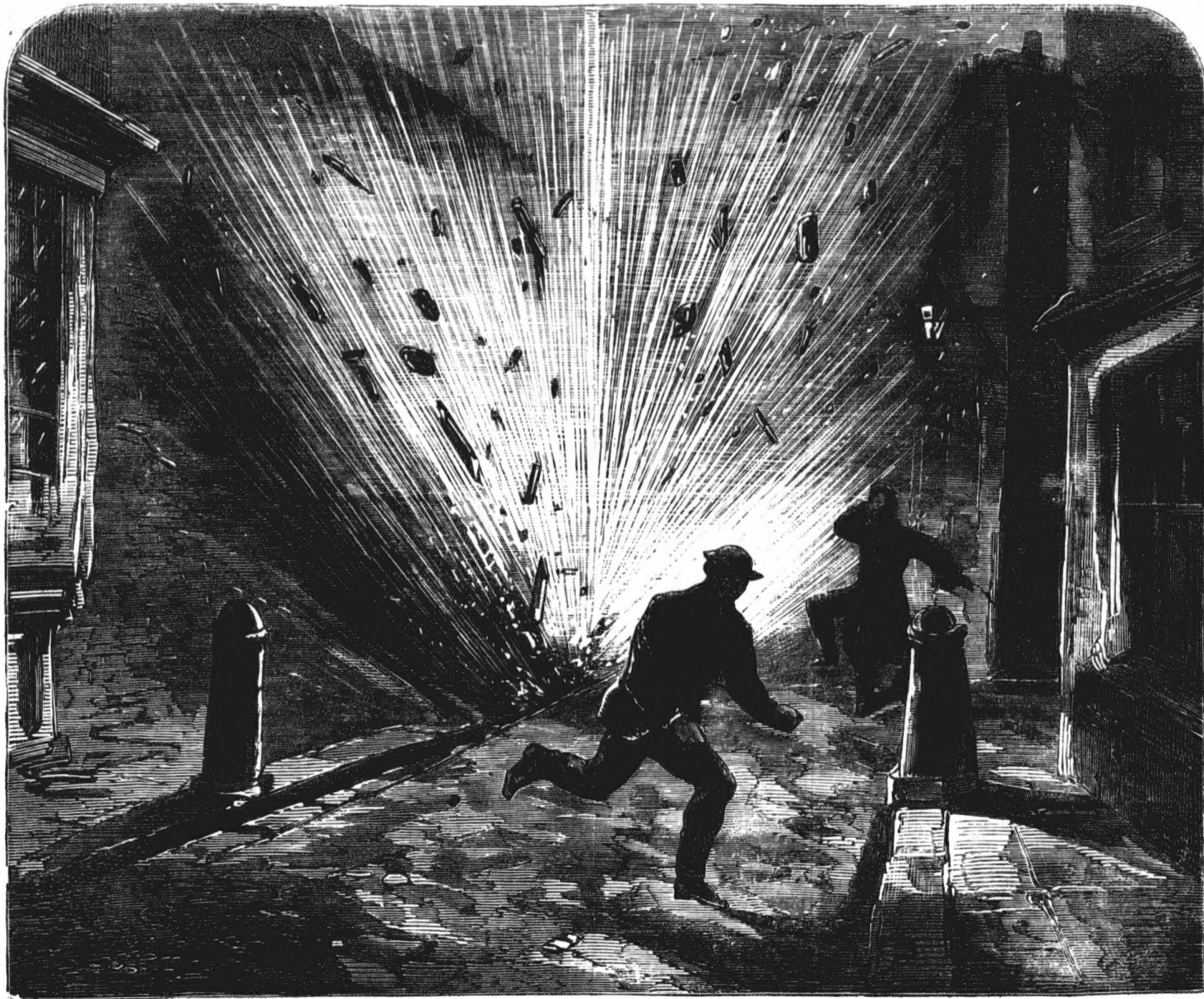
youth, who lived in Corporation-row, says that at about a quarter to four o'clock he was standing at Mr. Young's door, No. 5, when he saw a large barrel close to the wall of the prison, and a man leave the barrel and cross the road. Shortly afterwards the man returned with a long squib in each hand. One of these he gave to some boys who were playing in the street, and the other he thrust into the barrel. One of the boys was smoking, and he handed the man a light, which the man applied to the squib. The man stayed a short time until he saw the squib begin to burn, and then he ran away. A policeman ran after him, and when the policeman arrived opposite No. 5 "the thing went off." The boy saw no more after that, as he himself was covered with bricks and mortar. The man, he says, was dressed something like a gentleman. He had on a brown overcoat and black hat, and had light hair and whiskers. He should know him again if he saw him. There was a white cloth over the barrel, which was black, and when the man returned with the squib he partly uncovered the barrel, but did not wholly remove the cloth. There were several men and women in the street at the time, and children playing. Three little boys were standing near the barrel at the time. Some of the people ran after the man who lighted the squib.

The effects of the explosion were soon visible in all directions. The windows of the prison itself, of coarse glass more than a quarter of an inch thick, were to a large extent broken, and the side of the building immediately facing the outer wall in which the breach was made, and about 150 feet from it, bears the marks of the bricks which were hurled against it by the explosion. The wall surrounding the prison is about 25 feet high, 2 feet 3 inches thick at the bottom, and about 14 inches thick at the top.

As to the number of persons injured it was impossible for some hours to learn anything satisfactory. It was found, however, that something like fifty at least had been hurt, and that two or three were killed. Thirty-six of the sufferers were removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where three died in the course of the evening, and six to the Royal Free Hospital in Gray's Inn-road. Of the wounded some were mere infants, and the husband of a woman, who has since died of injuries she sustained, lies in St. Bartholomew's, shockingly bruised and prostrated. Others are missing.

The confusion which occurred after the explosion had taken place was extraordinary, and the only wonder is that many more

(Continued on page 728)



COURT AND SOCIETY.

ROSSINI is recovered in health.
A FUNERAL march by Mendelssohn is in the publisher's hands.
The well-known singer, M^{me}. Nantier-Lidée, has died at Madrid.

LORD TREYNHAM has entirely withdrawn from all connection with the Reform League.

It is believed that the Prince and Princess of Wales and family will spend their Christmas at Sandringham.

The *British Medical Journal* says Dr. Markham has resigned his appointment as Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, London.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN and the junior members of the Royal family have left Windsor Castle en route for Osborne.

The *Musical Standard* says Mr. Mapleson has engaged the Lyceum Theatre for operatic purposes after the termination of the pantomime.

PRINCE CHRISTIAN honoured the officers of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, with his company at dinner at the Sheet-street Barracks on Friday evening.

MR. WILLIAM LOWTHER, second son of the late M.P. for Westmoreland, the Hon. Colonel Lowther, will offer himself as a candidate to represent Westmoreland.

We are able to contradict a paragraph which has appeared in some newspapers, stating that the Rev. Edmond Warre has been appointed head master of Eton, vice Dr. Balston, resigned. The election does not take place until the 31st inst.

THE *Orchestra* understands that the re-building of Her Majesty's Theatre is to be set about at once, under the direction of the architect of the Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool. The old opera colonnade and Bijou theatre will be removed, and the entrance and general appearance will be imposing.

It is stated that the new Bishop of Lichfield will, shortly after his enthronement, visit his former diocese in New Zealand, to make certain necessary arrangements there, but that he will previously hold an ordination in his diocese. It is understood that the new bishop intends to reside in the Episcopal Palace at Lichfield, the lease of which has lately fallen in; and that the affairs of the diocese will, in his absence, be administered by one of the colonial bishops now in England.

RIMMEL'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Rimmel's packet of Christmas Presents, contains an Almanack, Shakespeare's Seven Ages, Perfumed Illuminated Dinner Cards, Compliments of the Season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, a handsome Copyright Invention, enclosed in a box, entitled Planetary Drops, and a figure of an Aged Watchman, who is the safe custodian of a triple extract of Spring Flowers. We recommend all lovers of the beautiful to send to Mr. Eugene Rimmel for his really charming Christmas Presents.

At about twelve o'clock on Saturday his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, attended by Major G. H. Grey, having taken leave of the Earl and Countess of Dudley, left Buckingham Hall for Sandringham, driving through Ighurgh, Hilborough, Swaffham, Narborough, Grimsstone, and Hillington, arriving at Sandringham about four o'clock. The Earl and Countess of Leicester and the Ladies Coke left for Holkham; Viscount and Viscountess Royston also left and returned to Wimpole Hall. Sir W. Bagge, Bart., M.P., left immediately after the Prince for Stradsett Hall; the Hon. T. De Grey, M.P., proceeded to Merton Hall, and the Hon. C. Vivian to Linford Hall, the seat of Mr. Lyne Stephens. The Earl and Countess of Dudley are expected to leave Buckingham Hall, on Tuesday, and proceed to Witley Court to spend the Christmas.

The chairman of the quarter sessions for the county of Galway, Mr. W. Westropp Brereton, Q.C., died on Friday morning, at his residence in Ireland. In 1836, Mr. Brereton was called to the bar, and rose rapidly to a high position in his profession. In 1852 he was called to the inner bar, and in 1858 he was appointed chairman for the city of Kerry, and subsequently was transferred to that of Galway. Mr. Brereton's political principles were essentially Conservative, in the upholding of which he was at all times consistent, yet he was never known to give offence to those opposed to him. It was under Lord Derby's administration in 1858 that Mr. Brereton was elevated to the position of chairman of quarter sessions, and it was from Lord Eglington, the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, that he received that distinction.

THE death is announced of the Rev. William Windsor Berry, M.A., prebendary of Mapebury in St. Paul's Cathedral, and for many years an active clergyman of the diocese of London. He was educated at Exeter College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree in 1822, being second class in classics. For some time he was curate of Putney, and in 1834 proceeded as chaplain to Leghorn, where he remained until 1839, when Lord Cottenham, who was then Lord Chancellor, presented him to the vicarage of Stanwell, near Staines. In 1853 Bishop Blomfield nominated him to a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral. In 1858 the Earl of Derby, the Prime Minister, presented him to the valuable Crown living of Waddingham, Lincolnshire, which he held up to the time of his death. This benefice, worth about £800 a year, again falls to the gift of the noble earl. The prebendal stall is in the gift of the Bishop of London.

HIS HIGHNESS the Japanese Prince, accompanied by Captain Edmondstone, Commodore Superintendent of Woolwich Dockyard, and his suite, on Saturday, visited, by request of the Admiralty, the works of the Thames Iron Works Ship-building, Engineering, and Dry Dock Company, at Blackwall. He was received by Mr. Peter Holt, chairman; Captain Ford, managing director; and Mr. Divers, secretary; Mr. Bell, Mr. Mackron, and other officers of the company, and went over the works and inspected the vessels now building, in which he appeared to take great interest. His attention was particularly attracted to the large iron-clad frigate, *Wilhelm I.*, of 6,000 tons, building for the Prussian navy, on board of which he was received by Mr. Zeysing, the superintending officer of the Prussian navy. He also went on board the Greek iron-clad of 1,050 tons, with 7-inch armour plates, two 300-pounder guns, which is to be launched before the close of the year, the keel having been laid less than five months ago. He noticed the other vessels and works in progress, examined the various models, especially that for a broadside vessel, which in the late competition invited by the Lords of the Admiralty was adjudged to be the best of the competitive broadside designs sent in.

AN ELEGANT COUGH REMEDY.—In our variable climate during the winter months coughs and colds appear the greatest enemies to mankind, and we are pleased to be able to draw the attention of sufferers to "Strange's Celebrated Balsam of Honey," which as a cough remedy, stands unrivalled. Honey, in the form of a Balsamic preparation, is strongly recommended by the Faculty of our medical works, and by Dr. Pereira (late lecturer on medicine to the hospital).—See *Materia Medica*, vol. ii. page 1854. It will relieve the most irritating cough in a few minutes, and by its mildly stimulating action, gently discharges phlegm from the chest by easy expectoration, and restores the healthy action of the lungs. The amount of suffering at this time of the year is incalculable, and numbers, from the want of an effectual remedy at a low cost, have the germs of consumption laid. Sold by most chemists at 1s. 1d. per bottle, large size 2s. 3d. Prepared by P. Strange, operative chemist, 260, East street, Walworth. Agents: Messrs. Barclay, Farrington-street; Newberry, St. Paul's; J. Sanger, 60, Oxford-street; and Butler and Crispe, Chapside.—[ADV.]

HOME AND DOMESTIC.

WILLIAM MOSS, 33, labourer, was brought up at the Liverpool Assizes on Thursday, on a charge of stabbing a warder in Walton Gaol. Prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

A NEW locomotive for common roads has been patented by Mr. R. W. Thomson, and successfully tried in Edinburgh. Its chief feature is that the tires of the wheels are covered with india-rubber, which is said to have a singular effect in increasing the grip of the wheel on the road without doing damage either to the road or to the india-rubber.

THE *Athenaeum* says a number of public-spirited engineers in Manchester have subscribed a large sum of money (one firm, Messrs. Beyer, Peacock and Co., gave no less than £3,000) for the endowment of a Chair of Engineering in connection with Owen's College. The fund is, so far advanced towards completion as to justify the early appointment of a professor.

A NUMBER of persons in the town of Guildford are exerting themselves to get up a memorial to the Home Secretary praying for a delay in the execution of the sentence on the Alton murderer, Baker, on the ground of the great doubts existing as to the prisoner's sanity. A statement corroborative of this opinion has been issued by Henry Taylor, surgeon, who was called for the defence on the trial.

ON Friday, at the Liverpool Assizes, Miss Georgina Reeves, 30 years of age, brought an action for breach of promise of marriage against Mr. Joseph Joplin, wine and spirit merchant. It was stated that the courtship commenced in the early part of last year, and in its course the usual amatory letters, verses, &c., were proffered, and afforded much amusement when read in court. After 18 months had elapsed the defendant changed his mind, raising some objections to the family of the lady. He also denied that he had ever promised to marry Miss Reeves. The jury found for the plaintiff, damages £400.

ON Saturday the 14th inst., the annual supper of the engravers on wood took place at the St. John's Gate. Mr. Wiggins, the worthy host, had provided as usual a sumptuous supper, after which Mr. Smallman the chairman made an appropriate speech, which elicited loud applause. The vice chair was occupied by Mr. Cobb. The steward on this occasion was Mr. Williams, who did his utmost to bring everything off satisfactorily, and was justly complimented for his exertions. The evening concluded with several comic and sentimental songs and lasted till the hour of twelve, everyone being much satisfied with the exertions made for the comfort and entertainment of all.

In the presence of a large number of the principal inhabitants of Sheffield on Thursday, Mr. John Jackson, the chief constable, was presented, in the Cutlers' Hall, with a massive silver salver and a cheque for £600 the result of a voluntary subscription. The object of the testimonial will be seen from the inscription on the salver, which was as follows:—"This salver, with a cheque for £600, is presented to Mr. John Jackson, the Chief Constable of Sheffield, in recognition of his services in connection with the inquiry into the trade disputes before the commissioners appointed by the Legislature for that purpose in 1867, and of the zeal and intelligence which he has displayed in the important duties of his office. The fund has been contributed by magistrates, merchants, manufacturers, and others interested in the commercial prosperity of the town, in whose name the testimonial is presented by Charles Atkinson, Esq., chairman of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures.—December, 1867."

Land and Water says a retrospect of the past grouse season shows it to have been, perhaps, the most remarkable, and certainly the most unfortunate, since the year 1849, during which year a terrible distemper, fatal in its results, cleared off the grouse, or very nearly so, on many of the Scotch moors. The grouse disease devastated early in the year all the moors in Yorkshire, Cumberland, and elsewhere in England. Then we hear of it in Scotland, on the moors stretching from Aberfeldy in the north to the Ochil range in the south—a distance of nearly forty miles. On the moors of Drummond Castle, Monzie, Fendoch, Glenalmond, Logiealmond, Auchnafree, Amulree, Corriemuecklach, and many others, no grouse were shot in consequence of the scarcity of birds. In numerous other instances, a few hours' shooting on the opening day proved the fallacy of attempting to persevere, in consequence of the sad havoc made by the malady. The number of grouse killed in Perthshire during the past season was at least two-thirds less than last year; on an estate in the Crief district, 4,000 brace of grouse were shot in 1866, and not a single bird this season.

ON Saturday evening, about half-past eight o'clock, a railway collision of a most severe character, and which caused serious injury to nearly a score of persons, occurred at the goods station of the London and North-Western Railway at Wigan, a few hundred yards south of the passenger station. At 7.45 p.m., a train leaves Manchester (via Eccles and Tyldesley) for Wigan, where it is due at 8.30. On Saturday night it proceeded safely as far as the spot where the line from the Wigan goods station joins the main line, which it reaches after ascending a very considerable gradient. At the station an engine was employed collecting waggons for several trains which had to leave during the night; and just before the time of the accident it had been moved to a spot some seventy yards from the junction, and stood there tender foremost, with a lot of heavily-laden luggage trucks behind. When the Manchester train reached the junction the points were all wrong, and the engine, then nearly at full speed, dashed down the incline into the luggage station with most disastrous consequences. It came into collision with the stationary engine, which was lifted off the line and the end stove in; but luckily the fireman and stoker had noticed the impending accident just in time to escape. The front portion of the passenger engine was also a complete wreck, but neither driver nor stoker was killed, though the former was severely injured, and the latter was found lying insensible on the step of the engine. The first carriage—a third class—was a perfect wreck, as was also the second—a composite, first and second class, and it is miraculous how the occupants escaped instant death. Nearly 20 persons were more or less injured. The governor of the Leigh workhouse was badly cut and shaken; Mr. Robert Pearson, auctioneer, of Wigan, was also hurt; and a number of colliers who were coming to Wigan from Plattbridge, were also amongst the sufferers. The most serious case was that of the stoker, a man named Nickson, of Manchester, who three hours afterwards was hardly sensible. The accident occurring on a siding, caused but little interruption.

BECKET AND LANGTON.

BECKET was a proud, over-bearing, bigoted churchman, ever attempting to elevate the ecclesiastical above the civil power, thus making the Church the refuge of crime and infamy. His concern for the Church was a mere exaggerated estimate of the necessity of great temporal power being placed in the hands of the Church. He lacked conciliation and discretion, and his displays of power were as offensive to good taste as they were nauseous to those who came within their range. His great principle seems to have been to make every one who came within his influence smart under a sense of inferiority, and in his proud insolence he once insisted upon the king holding his stirrup whilst he mounted his horse. Langton, on the contrary, was never a mere ecclesiastic; though primate of the Romish Church, he never forgot that he was an Englishman; though the first on the peerage-roll, that he was still a man; and thus, while he rejected unlimited power as the price of his desertion of the popular cause, in drafting the Charter he claims that the privileges granted to the knights in capite shall by them, in turn, be granted to their vassals and villeins.—*Saint Paul.*

METROPOLITAN.

At Wareham, in Dorsetshire, prime legs of mutton are selling at 5d. per lb., and shoulders at 5d. per lb.

THE latest betting in London on the Derby is as follows:—20 to 1 against Blue Gown (offered); 1,000 to 20 against Harvester (taken); 1,000 to 15 against Reconstitution (offered); taken 1,000 to 10; 1,000 to 10 against Franchise (offered).

A shocking accident occurred at the parish church, King's Norton, on Thursday evening. A new peal of bells, subscribed for by the parishioners, has just been cast by Messrs. Blows and Son, of Birmingham, and the largest bell was being fixed, when, from some cause at present unexplained, it fell, cutting in two the organ, and crushing the head of Mr. Arthur Longmore, a young gentleman who had shown much interest in the work.

THE annual distribution of medals and prizes to the successful students of the Female School of Art took place on Saturday, at Burlington House. The ceremony was attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen. Sir F. Grant, president of the Royal Academy, occupied the chair. From the report it appeared that the school was progressing favourably. At the present time there were 107 students on the books, being 34 more than at the same date last year. Sir F. Grant, after distributing the prizes, addressed the students at some length on the utility and importance of their studies, and gave them some excellent advice.

ON Saturday night another violent gale visited the metropolis. Chimney-pots, tiles, slates, and, in not a few cases, whole roofs were blown off. The only fatal accidents which have as yet been reported occurred on the river, where a sailing barge, bound for Rochester, came in collision with a vessel of the same character during the gale below Crossness Point, and two men were drowned. A man was also reported to have been blown into the river, near Blackwall, between eleven and twelve o'clock, and drowned. No reliable particulars of the latter occurrence, however, could be obtained.—At Vauxhall and Chelsea several boats were swamped and lost; and at Fulham and Hammersmith much damage was done to the gardens of the horticulturists.

A CASE of some importance to the clergy, owners of property, and parochial authorities in London has been heard before Mr. Barker, of the Clerkenwell Police-court. The plaintiffs, the vestry of St. Pancras, summoned a clergyman for improvements made about his church, under the various Metropolitan Improvement Acts, for a sum of nearly £700, and the claim was resisted, although it is said that several of the St. Pancras clergy who have been applied to have paid the sum at which they have been assessed without resistance. Mr. M. Garvey appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. Sligh, the barrister, for the defendant.—Mr. Garvey said: The defendant is the Rev. A. R. G. Thomas, incumbent of St. Paul's Church, Camden-square, and the claim made upon him was for £690 11s. 10d. for paths and footways made round his church. He contended that as the incumbent of the church he was the owner of the freehold, because induction to the church made him *ipso facto* the freeholder of the church. That had been provided by direct legislation. Mr. Thomas was therefore sued as a corporation sole, representing the whole interests of the church for the time being.—Mr. Sligh, for the defence, contended that, for the purposes of the Act, Mr. Thomas was not the "owner" of the property. The owner must be the person who receives the rack rent. Mr. Thomas was a salaried officer, paid £400 a year by the trustees, to whom the pew-rents were assigned.—The Magistrate said he should reserve his opinion.—In any case the matter will, it is believed, be taken to the Court of Queen's Bench.

ON Saturday an inquest was held in Whitecross-street on the body of Charles Haynes, aged fifty-five. Deceased had for some time been in a destitute condition, and on Wednesday he applied for parish relief, and was sent into the yard to work. He earned 2d. On Thursday afternoon he was found in his room, hanging by a rope to a nail in the wall. He was quite dead.—The coroner asked Mr. George, the relieving-officer, whether 2d. was all deceased got for a whole day to support him, his wife, and two children.—George: Yes.—Coroner: That's working with a vengeance. Was he offered the house?—George: He was not. His application was for relief, and we gave him relief.—Several jurors: "Promiscuous!" George: I heard and saw no more of him after the next day. He then applied again to me, and I gave him another order, but he did not use it. It was for oakum picking. I did not visit his home, for I am sorry to say I have not time to visit all cases. There are people in the yard who make 1s. 3d. a day. I did not pay the deceased the 2d.—Hannah Thompson said that the deceased was her father. When he was in business he never made less than 8s. a day. When he became destitute, witness tried to assist him, but she could do very little for, she was a widow with three children, and she only made 1s. a day. The workhouse people gave him 2d. for picking oakum. He told the parish people that the landlord was going to turn him out of his room for non-payment of rent, and they said, "That is nothing;" and he said, "But they will take my things." (An old bed, a fender, a broken chair, and a few pieces of crockery were all the furniture that was in the room.) The parish then replied: "If your things are taken, you can turn yourself about. We will give you a shilling, and you can buy more coals." Neither he nor his family had enough to eat. He said he would go into the workhouse if they would take him in. On Wednesday night he said, after he got the 2d. for the day's work, "I shall do something, for it would be better for me to be in prison than to lead the life I'm leading." Witness believed that he committed suicide through distress of mind, caused by destitution and the want of parish relief.—The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict:—"That the deceased hanged himself through temporary insanity, brought on by want, and through not being supplied by the parish with necessary relief."

HER MAJESTY'S MODEL FARM AT WINDSOR.

SEVERAL prizes having been awarded to the Queen at the recent Cattle Show, it may interest many of our readers to learn, by means of engravings, what facilities Her Majesty has for the breeding and rearing of cattle, we therefore give on page 725 two views of the Queen's Model Farm at Windsor. The extent of the farm is upwards of 800 acres, and the buildings upon it were erected for the most part under the supervision of the late Prince Albert. Every modern improvement has been brought into requisition for the convenience and cleanliness of every department. It is plentifully supplied with water, the various covered buildings are well lit with gas, threshing, chaff-cutting, grinding, root cutting, &c., is effected by steam power, and, lastly, the men employed on the farm live in model cottages.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

A TELEGRAM from Annuley Bay, transmitted from Suva on the 11th inst., announces that letters had been received from the captives at Magdala, who are all well, up to the 28th of October. "Abba, Salama, Abuna, and Enghay, three villagers in Tigre, with a population of 12,000, had proffered friendship." Four thousand Egyptian troops had mustered at Massowah. The three villages named are situated about four miles to the westward of the valley of Hadass, which has been reconnoitred by Colonel Merewether beyond Tekonda, and within five miles of Semafe. We learn further, from an independent source, that Dedjatch Kassai, the ruler of Tigre, is disposed to offer his services to the expedition, but the policy of accepting them is questionable, as the Dedjatch is believed to be acting in concert with the Viceroy of Egypt, whose intervention in this Abyssinian question will probably lead to awkward complications.

PROVINCIAL.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* mentions that a battery of artillery was lately kept three days on board ship between Jersey and Guernsey. They were put on board, it is stated, in the evening, and landed on the evening of the third day. Ordinary passengers, not having the advantage of official care, make the passage in less than four hours.

On Thursday week, at the Liverpool Assizes, a case, Walker v. Bealey, was tried. It was an action to recover compensation for personal injuries sustained by plaintiff's wife through the alleged negligence of the defendant's servant. In 1856 Mr. Walker, who was a commercial traveller, was on the evening of the 1st of November returning home from Bury with his wife, when their phaeton came into a collision with a waggon belonging to the defendant, which was in charge of a man named Fogg. It resulted in Mrs. Walker having her thigh broken, from which cause she was confined to her bed for ten weeks, and to her home for four months, and it was proved by her medical attendants that she would be afflicted with a permanent lameness in consequence. The plaintiff said he had, by reason of the accident, been put to about £300 expenses. The jury found for plaintiff—damages £100.

On Friday morning, Captain Disney, of the 2nd Staffordshire Militia, met with his death under very strange and inexplicable circumstances. It would seem that he left home at an unusually early hour, and walked out of the town in the direction of Radford. At two o'clock, or a little later, he was spoken to by the gate-man at the Queensville Railway crossing. He appears to have taken the road as far as Tixall crossing, and then to have gone along the line into the Shugborough tunnel. But, however this may be, his body was found there in a frightfully mangled condition by a platelayer, between six and seven o'clock. The unfortunate gentleman's remains were brought to Stafford, where they await a coroner's inquest. It is stated that he had been in an infirm state of health for some time past.

An inquest was held at Tewkesbury on Tuesday, on the body of Mr. Jas. Herbert Brown, a surgeon, in partnership with Mr. Allard. On Sunday evening Mr. Brown complained of his head and chest, and after refusing tea, went home. Soon afterwards, a cabinet-maker, passing along the road with his wife and son, heard a low moaning, and found Mr. Brown lying prostrate, with his head over a ditch, and his hat and umbrella beside him. He was black in the face, his lips were swollen, and he was insensible. He was removed to a neighbouring turnpike-house, and Mr. Allard was fetched. He was found to be suffering from apoplexy and asphyxia, and had lost all power of sense and motion, and, notwithstanding the efforts of his partner and another medical man, he died in a few hours. The jury returned a verdict of "Died from natural causes."

On Thursday, at Manchester, Jane Elin was charged with having stolen a bottle of brandy and a pair of sheets, the property of her employer, H. Mead, of Prestwick-park. She had been taken into Mr. Mead's service only on Thursday last, and on Monday afternoon was found drunk on her bed with an empty whisky bottle besides her. A police-constable found a pair of sheets and a bottle of brandy upon her. In her box were found two engraved plates, which had evidently been taken off umbrellas and 72 pawn-tickets, mostly referring to umbrellas. Mrs. Mead had engaged her on the strength of a written character, purporting to be by some one at Baywater, who had gone abroad, and the testimony of a woman with whom she was living at Manchester. Mr. Trafford sentenced the prisoner to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

On Friday, at the Head Police-office, Dublin, Mary M'Mullen was brought up in custody, charged on suspicion of having robbed her mistress, Mrs. M'Keehin, of a sum of £40 and several valuable articles of jewellery. The prisoner had been a servant to Mrs. M'Keehin for three years and a half. The lady went out to dine on Friday, and left the prisoner in charge of her house. On her return the prisoner said, in a very excited manner, "I have been nearly murdered. The house has been robbed of everything by robbers, who broke in the hall-door, and when they could not get into the parlour went into your bed-room and took away everything with them." A policeman was at once sent for, and on a search being made it was found that £40, a topaz ring, a bracelet, a diamond ring, and a massive gold ring, had been taken from a dressing-case in the lady's bed-room. The prisoner was remanded for further examination.

An inquest was held at Shrewsbury on Saturday upon the body of a young gentleman named Bott, who had been run over and killed at the railway station on the previous day. The deceased was engaged at the booking office at the railway station, and on Friday evening, just as the five o'clock train was on the point of leaving, a lady came to the office window and asked for a ticket. Mr. Bott informed her that it was too late; but as she importuned him to assist her to get away he good-naturedly said that if she would go on and secure a seat in the train he would stamp a ticket and bring it to her. When he ran out with the ticket the train was moving away from the platform; and he jumped on the step and rode with it whilst the lady was feeling in her purse for the fare. By the time she had found the money and handed it to the deceased the train had got on full speed, and was approaching a ticket platform just outside the station. It is supposed that the deceased attempted to jump off here, and in the dusk stumbled against the platform and was thus thrown under the train. As he did not return to the office a porter was sent in search of him, and found him lying on the rails at the end of the platform with both his thighs crushed. He was at once removed to the infirmary, but died within an hour of his admittance. An unusual degree of sympathy has been excited by this sad occurrence, Mr. Bott being a great favourite at the station, where he was well known to the public for his obliging disposition and for a courtesy in the exercise of which he lost his life.

A PROFOUND sensation has been produced in the neighbourhood of Pill and St. George's, Somerset, in consequence of a very murderous attack, which there is the greatest reason for fearing will result fatally, committed at an early hour on Saturday morning by armed burglars on police-constable Ogbourn, an active officer of the Somersetshire county constabulary. The wounded officer was a very steady and experienced man, and in the course of his nightly rounds he had to pass a tract of land at about a mile from Pill village, called St. George's-common. He reached this part of his beat on Saturday, at about half-past two, or from that to a quarter before three o'clock, having paused for a few minutes, as was his wont, to listen for any sounds. He heard the low barking of a dog, and some other sounds, proceeding from a farm on the common occupied by a yeoman named Hookway. He immediately proceeded in the direction of the farm, and on approaching saw two men coming from the back part of the farm, carrying some sort of plunder. He made an attempt to seize them. One of them threw down several fowls, and ran away. The constable was then about to grasp the other, when he observed that he was armed, and carried in his hand two large pistols. The villain levelled one of the pistols at the officer, and deliberately fired, the charge taking effect at the pit of the stomach. He then moved away, but turning round, seeing that the wounded man had not fallen, he returned towards him with the other pistol. By this time it became evident that poor Ogbourn was severely wounded, seeing which, the scoundrel again made off. The constable succeeded in crawling to the farm, and aroused the inmates, who had not been disturbed by the robbers. Immediate assistance was rendered him. The pistol had been loaded with large shot, some of which the doctor extracted. The wounded man lies in a most precarious state, the faintest hopes only being entertained of his recovery.

FOREIGN AND GENERAL.

A GANG of forgers of bank-notes of three, ten, and fifty roubles has been arrested at Kolomna.

THE proposed European Conference upon the Roman question will not take place, the negotiations with the principal Powers having failed.

THE *New York Herald* publishes a despatch from Havannah, dated the 12th inst., asserting that Spain has offered to sell the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico to the United States for the sum of one hundred and fifty million dollars.

FROM Russia we hear that the Emperor has approved of the Carl needle gun as the rifle of the army. The private factories of M. Kron work without intermission in the fabrication of guns of this pattern. The Emperor has also sanctioned the new customs tariff, which will be put in force from the 1st January, 1869.

INTELLIGENCE from the seat of war published at Rio de Janeiro, announces that Humaita is invested by the allies, and that the Brazilian batteries command the river Tuyaty. An attack of the Paraguayans had been repulsed with a loss on the Paraguayan side of 2,000 men.

It is said that the Princess Charlotte, widow of the Emperor Maximilian, renounces her marriage portion and any part of the late Emperor's fortune, and that she takes purely and simply possession of her private fortune, amounting to about fourteen million francs. On Wednesday the Princess visited the King and Queen, at the Royal Palace at Brussels.

COMPLAINTS have reached London by the Australian mail just arrived that letters addressed to Melbourne by the Panama route are charged 6d. on delivery, in addition to the postage paid in London. Letters so addressed are sent first to Queensland, then to Sydney, and last to Melbourne, the 6d. charged being for the Sydney postage.

IN Paris the report is considered doubtful that a rupture between the relations of Prussia and Denmark is imminent. We must admit, however, that the character of the pending negotiations is of the most delicate nature, and may create disagreement between the Prussian Ministry and Herr von Quasade, and, perhaps, subsequently lead to the latter's being replaced in his post as Danish plenipotentiary.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON in his message says "The abuse of our laws by the clandestine prosecution of the African slave trade from American ports, or by American citizens, has altogether ceased, and under existing circumstances no apprehensions of its renewal in this part of the world are entertained. Under these circumstances, it becomes a question whether we shall not propose to Her Majesty's government a suspension or discontinuance of stipulations for maintaining a naval force for the suppression of that trade."

BY the latest intelligence we learn that the divers were recovering the bodies and cargoes from the ships sunk in the harbour of St. Thomas. Captain Vesey, R.N., Her Majesty's ship *Doris*, has kindly lent the patent diving apparatus, from the dockyard at Antigua, supplied by Mr. Siebe, the Admiralty having now an apparatus at each of the foreign stations. The West India and Pacific Steam Ship Company have taken immediate steps for the recovery of the *Columbian*, sunk in the harbour, with £200,000 of cargo, their steamer *Derwent* having sailed from Liverpool with several sets of Mr. Siebe's diving apparatus and experienced divers; also powerful steam pumps and tackle for raising the ship.

WESTON, the pedestrian, arrived at Chicago, the end of his toilsome journey, on the 28th ult. As early as seven o'clock in the morning crowds of people commenced pouring out to the southern limits. He reached the junction of Twenty-second-street and Wabash Avenue about ten o'clock, three miles from his hotel. His march down the avenue was a perfect ovation. Every public and private carriage in the city, express waggons, drays, and omnibuses loaded with people, blocked up the streets, and for the entire distance the sidewalks were filled with a mass of people so dense that motion was almost impossible. The windows of the residences were crowded with ladies, who greeted him along the entire route by waving handkerchiefs, to which the crowds in the streets responded with hearty cheers, Weston bowing his acknowledgments. In spite of the efforts of the police Weston was fairly carried into the hotel on the shoulders of the crowd. He then made his appearance on the balcony, holding his little girl in his arms, and a beautiful bouquet given him by the ladies, and received a hearty round of cheers. In the afternoon Weston appeared at the Opera House. He was to remain in the city two weeks, during which time he will attempt the feat of walking 100 miles on the Dexter-park Course.

THE Alexandria correspondent of the *Levant Herald* writes:—"On Saturday evening Mr. Elliot, the second lieutenant and officer in command of Her Majesty's ship *Terrible*—the captain and first lieutenant being at the time at Cairo—was dining at the British residency with Captain Willoughby, the resident transport officer, and after dinner chartered an araba to convey him to the Cairo railway station. Cochee—an Arab—appears to have misused his way and got outside the walls of the town, and his lamps not being lit, was there pulled up by a patrol of cavasses. After waiting patiently for some time, whilst the guttural palaver went on, Mr. Elliot called out to the driver to proceed, and on this being prevented by the cavasses, prepared to get out and walk. Before he could do so, however, he was seized and hustled out by a couple of the ragged gendarmerie, to whom four or five others speedily lent hand, and between them Mr. Elliot was half-garrotted in less time than I take to tell it. Finding himself in extremis, he managed to draw a life-preserver, and with this speedily felled one of his assailants. A shout from the remainder, who for a short time were cowed, speedily brought up the whole guard, and then Mr. Elliot was again seized and pummelled and battered within an inch of his life. That done, he was dragged down the road to the guard-house—it was near the Pompey's Pillar gates—and there brought before a venerable but dirty old gaffer, who, speaking a little English, told him to consider himself a prisoner for the night. Mr. Elliot told who he was and how the row had happened, on hearing which the chief at once changed his tone, and generously offered to let the affair drop if the prisoner would give him a couple of francs' backsheesh. To this our countryman demurred, but he had finally to pay one franc before he got back his life-preserver and was allowed to resume his drive, the whole party offering to shake hands with him as he repurchased the curlicue. Next morning Mr. Elliot went to the consulate, and found one of the under-officials, who gave him a note of complaint to Ali Bey, the governor of the Zaptieh. Armed with this, and accompanied by a consular cavasse, he proceeded to the prison, where the gravity of the outrage was at once acknowledged, and next morning appointed for the identification and punishment of the offenders. Accordingly this was done, the old mulazim being sentenced to two years' hard labour in the Arsenal, and the worst of Mr. Elliot's assailants to 130 bastinadoes. Of these the fellow got 70, when Mr. Elliot interposed and stopped the stick.

A FACT in connection with the Russian Court is worth mentioning. The leather exhibited here exemplifies by its important qualities the great value of the well-kept secret of the tanning process for which Russia has so long been famous. Its softness, its durability, its peculiar and pleasant odour, and its imperviousness to wet, recommend this leather for every description of boot. To cover our poor feet, after all there is nothing like leather, and there is no leather like Russian. The fact alluded to is this—that the whole of the best samples in the department have been secured by an Englishman, Mr. S. W. NORMAN, of Westminster-bridge-road, Lambeth.—*The Cosmopolitan*.—[ADVT.]

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA:

NEW ROYALTY THEATRE.—We had the pleasure last week of again seeing Mr. Craven in his original character, Milky White. A more hearty, genuine, thoroughly natural, and unforced piece of acting was never seen on the stage. From first to last Mr. Craven carried his audience with him. "Milky White" is a very clever play, and Mr. Craven's acting beyond criticism. Those who have not yet visited the Royalty should do so without delay, as Christmas will, no doubt, bring a change in the performances at that theatre. "Black-eyed Susan" is not a good burlesque. Mr. Burnad should have done better, but the actors and actresses have redeemed the piece and saved it from failure. Captain Crosstree, Miss Marriott, and Mr. Danvers (the latter also excellent as the cow-boy in "Milky White") deserve especial commendation. Miss Marriott is to be congratulated upon having established the once insignificant theatre in Dean-street, into a popular place of amusement, well deserving the extensive support accorded to it by the public.

MRS. STAMMERS AT SADLER'S WELLS.—This lady gave a return performance at this theatre on Tuesday night last, after an absence of about three years from the London stage, where she was known as Miss Marian Morton. Her admirable impersonation of the high bred lady in Falconer's comedy of "Woman" at the Lyceum Theatre, marked her as an actress of no common order. Since that period she has made Wales and the West her dramatic home. The play was "Julius Caesar," in which she sustained the small part of Portia, with grace, nobility and pathos; she was indeed Cato's daughter. Mr. Alfred Rayner played Cato in his fine, manly style; Mr. Stammers essayed Brutus, and was more than respectable; while Mr. Lorraine's Marc Antony was the beau ideal of the lover of the Egyptian Queen, and noble soldier. After the play, Mrs. Stammers delivered, in an excellent manner, a new and very appropriate address, expressly written for and presented to her by George Augustus Sala; as great a compliment as any artist could desire. Mr. David Miranda, the popular tenor, gave "Come into the garden, Maud," and "The Death of Nelson," the latter in a manner that none but him and Sims Reeves have done since Braham; this was followed by a trumpet solo, "The Soldier Tired," by the unrivalled Thomas Harper, which, of course, obtained an uproarious encore. The farce of "Perfection" concluded one of the most enjoyable and applauded evenings ever known at Sadler's Wells; the audience evidently went there to welcome an old friend, and they did it, Mr. and Mrs. Stammers being both called several times before the curtain. At the close of the fourth act of "Julius Caesar," Mr. Stammers apologised for any shortcomings in the production of the play, and while thanking Miss Marriott, and Mr. Edgar for allowing it to be performed for a single night, gracefully said that if there was any blame it was attributable to him, and him alone.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Friday night, at Exeter Hall, was a grand gala night for the Sacred Harmonic Society. It was the five hundredth performance by that great national institution of amateurs, and the committee, desirous to mark, as emphatically as they possibly could, their great sense of the merits of Mr. Costa and their appreciation of his services as conductor for many years, graced the occasion with a performance of his oratorio "Naaman." As if to lend additional eclat to the festival, Mr. Costa had so far recovered from his late severe illness as to be able to take up his old position at the head of his forces. Thus there were three solid reasons why especial interest should attach to last Friday night—it was the 500th representation by the society, Mr. Costa made his first appearance this year, and his best oratorio, "Naaman," always a great favourite with the subscribers and the public, had been revived. The reception awarded to Mr. Costa on his taking his seat in the orchestra may be more easily imagined than described. It was difficult to say which were most enthusiastic, the audience or the band and chorus. Such hearty and unanimous cheers admit of one interpretation—the highest merit and the greatest popularity on the part of the recipient. Mr. Costa bowed and turned, bowed and bowed, until he was fairly wearied making his obeisance to the hurricane of applause that surrounded him, and was evidently much affected. The execution of the oratorio was astonishingly good throughout, and very nearly came up to the matchless first performance at the Birmingham Town-hall in September, 1864. Band, chorus, and principal singers rendered themselves worthy of the occasion, and the audience responded with heart and voice. The singers were Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Madame Rudersdorff, Mdlle. Drasil, Messrs. W. C. Cummings, Montem-Smith, and Santley. Mdlle. Drasil supplied the place of Madame Sainton-Dolby, who was prevented from being present by indisposition. The substitution, nevertheless, was most satisfactory, and the young contralto from Her Majesty's Theatre acquitted herself admirably, winning a very decided encore in the beautiful song, "I dreamt I was in Heaven." Madame Lemmens-Sherrington in the prayer, "Maker of every star"—one of the vocal gems of the oratorio—displayed her brilliant voice and artistic style to the greatest possible advantage; and Madame Rudersdorff was powdered and telling, as usual, in the music allotted to her, distinguished herself more particularly in the air of the Shunamite, "Look up, my son," which opens the second part. The music of Naaman was sung by Mr. Cummings with fine feeling, and a thorough appreciation of its power and its beauty. Mr. Santley sang magnificently; a finer example, indeed, of the devotional pathetic in singing than the air "Lament not thus," given by him on Friday night, we never heard. The air was encored with acclamations which all the moral barriers set up in Exeter Hall could not resist. The band and chorus, sensibly alive to the moment, and bent on doing honour to their chief, exerted themselves to the very utmost, and covered themselves with new laurels.

BAL MASQUE AT THE ALHAMBRA.—The ball at the Alhambra on Monday night was a great success. It was numerously attended, and the arrangements of Mr. F. Strange, were, we need not say perfect, in every respect.

"Letts's Diaries." Letts, Son and Co., 8, Royal Exchange. Now that a new year is about to commence, our numerous readers will begin to think about purchasing new diaries, and of all that we have seen, our old favourites, published by Letts, are as usual, the best and the cheapest, the "Housekeeper's Diary" being especially useful and comprehensive. The "Office Calendar" is also worthy of mention.

"Dramatic and Musical Almanac for 1868." By J. W. Anson, Secretary of the Royal Dramatic College, &c. 1s.

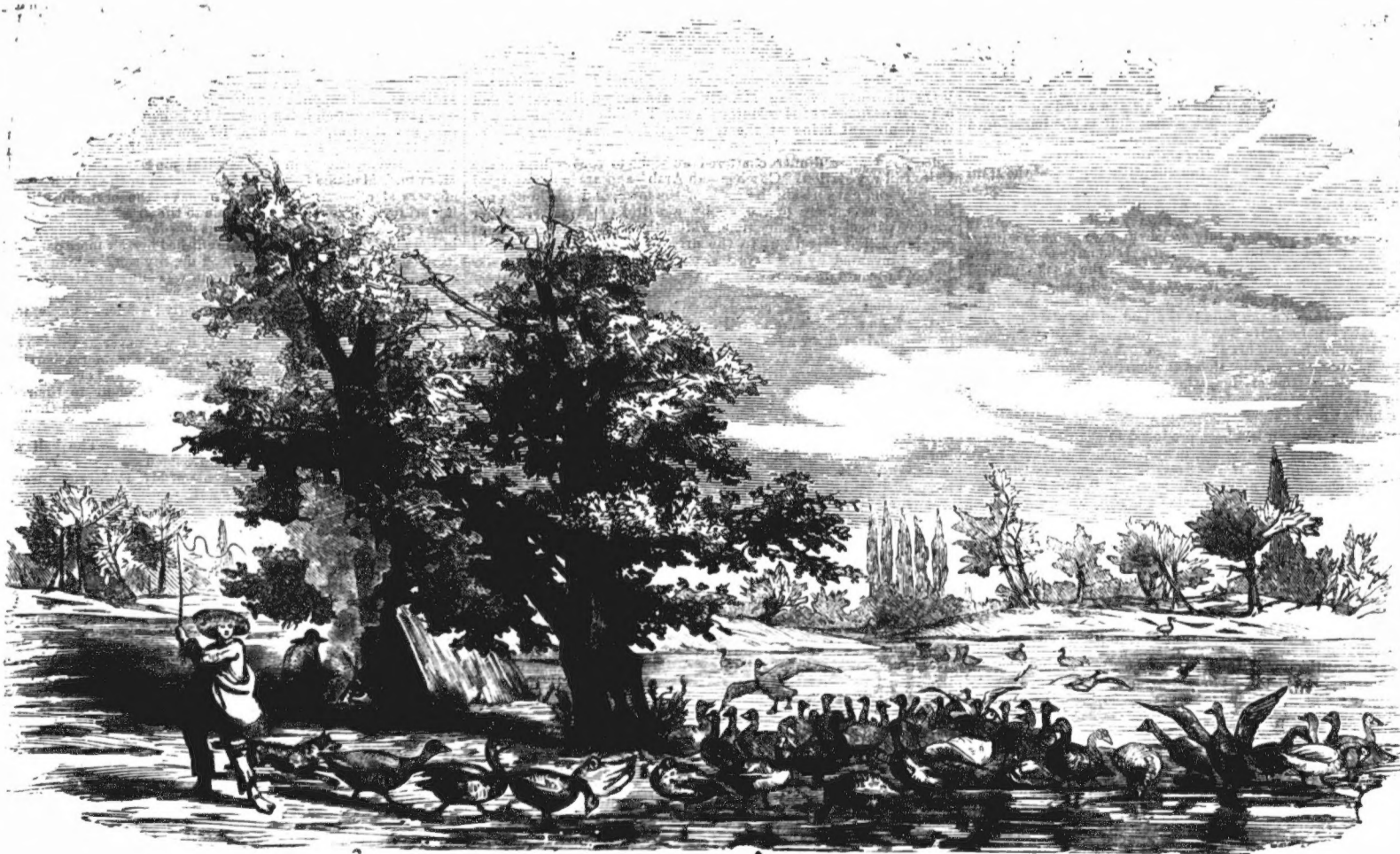
THIS almanac commends itself to the public by its handy size and general excellence. Mr. Anson is to be commended for the judicious manner in which he has compiled the little book; before us, the profits arising from the sale of which are to be devoted to the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund.

CO-OPERATION IN ROCHESTER.—Rochester seems the chosen home of co-operation. A theatre, twenty yards by forty, big enough for 2,200 people (1,100 in the pit alone), has been just opened there, the money for building which (£6,000) was raised by £1 shares, mostly taken up by working men. A theatre has long been what is called "a desideratum" in the place. But rather more than two years ago the men, who have got the secret of making co-operation always pay, determined to supply the want, and they have succeeded.

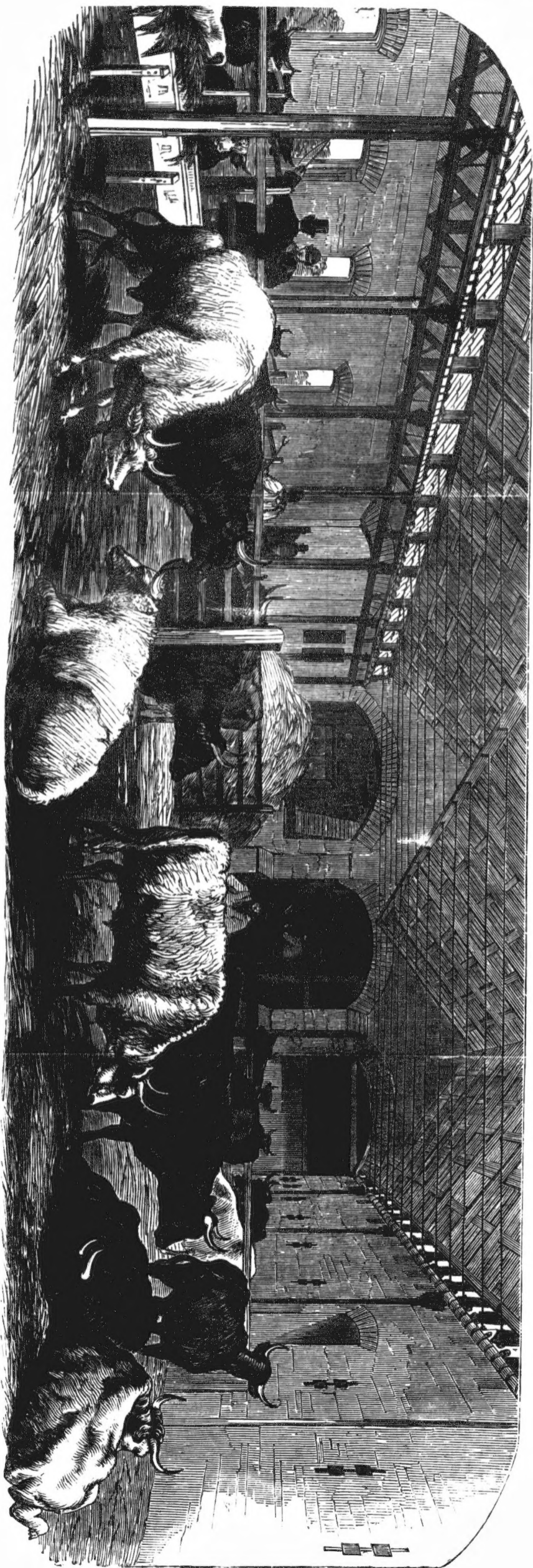
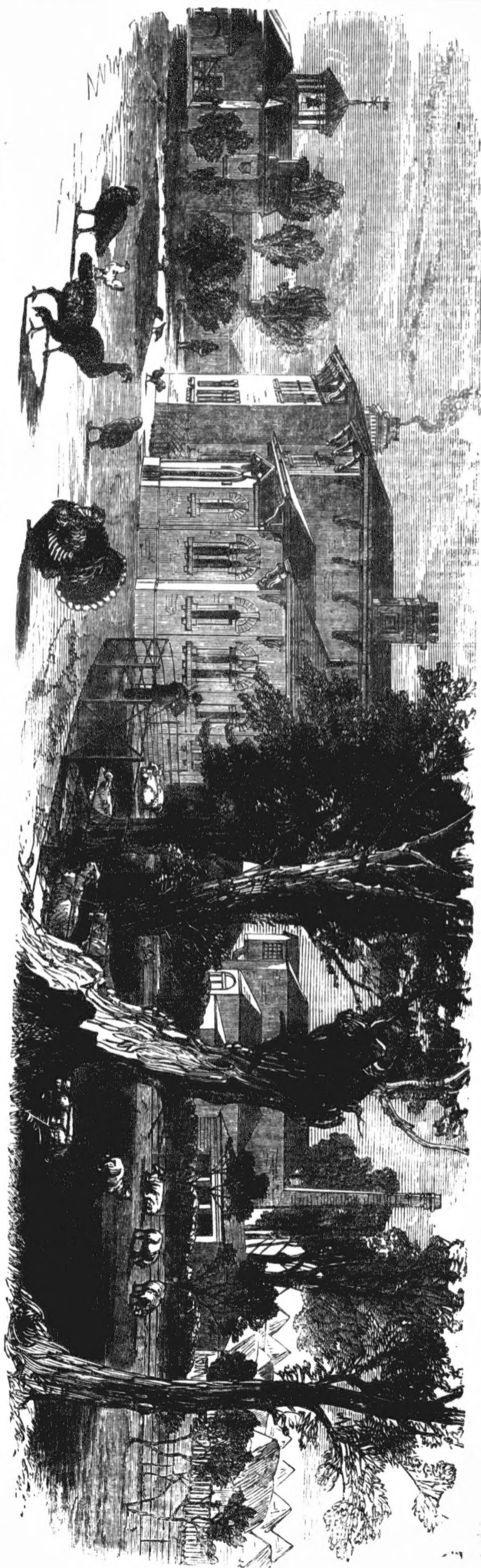


THE MARKET FOR GEESE AT STRASBURG.

VIEWS OF H. R. MAJESTY'S MODEL FARM AT WINDSOR.



THE FEEDING GROUNDS FOR GEESE AT MARLIN, GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN.



VIEWS OF H.R. MAJESTY'S MODEL FARM AT WINDSOR.

THEATRES.

COVENT GARDEN.—Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. Eight.
 DRURY LANE.—The Doge of Venice—The Ladies' Club.
 Seven.
 HAYMARKET.—Our American Cousins—To Paris and Back for
 £5—The Spectre Bridgroom. Seven.
 ADELPHI.—Man is not Perfect, nor Woman Either—Maud's
 Peril—Up for the Cattle Show. Seven.
 PRINCESS'S.—A Little Flirtation—(At a Quarter to Eight).
 The Colleen Bawn—Number One Round the Corner. Seven.
 OLYMPIC.—From Grave to Gay—If I had a Thousand a Year—
 My Wife's Bonnet. Seven.
 ST. JAMES'S.—Fifteen Years of Labour Lost—Is He Jealous?—
 A Widow Hunt. Seven.
 STRAND.—Nothing to Nurse—Kind to a Fault—William Tell
 with a Vengeance. Seven.
 NEW QUEEN'S.—He's a Lunatic—Still Waters Run Deep—The
 First Night. Seven.
 PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Caste—My Colonel's Legacy. Half-past
 Seven.
 NEW ROYALTY.—Milky White—(At Half-past Nine). The
 Latest Edition of Black-Eyed Susan—Highly Improbable.
 Half-past Seven.
 NEW EAST LONDON.—The Gambler—Rebecca.
 BRITANNIA.—The Lady of Lyons—Concert—Captain Gerald—
 Quarter to Seven.
 ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE AND CIRCUS.—The American Circus
 every Evening—Grand Morning Performances every Wed-
 nesday and Saturday.

THE SIGHTS OF LONDON.

1.—FREE.

British Museum; Chelsea Hospital; Courts of Law and Jus-
 tice; Docks; Dulwich Gallery; East India Museum, Fife House,
 Whitehall; Greenwich Hospital; Hampton Court Palace; Houses
 of Parliament; Kew Botanic Gardens and Pleasure Grounds;
 Museum of Economic Geology, Jermyn-street; National Gallery;
 National Portrait Gallery; Patent Museum, adjoining the South
 Kensington Museum; Soane's Museum, Lincoln's-inn-fields; So-
 ciety of Arts' Exhibitions of Inventions (in the spring of every
 year); St. Paul's Cathedral; Westminster Abbey; Westminster
 Hall; Windsor Castle; Woolwich Dockyard and Repository.

2.—BY INTRODUCTION.

Antiquarian Society's Museum, Somerset House; Armourers'
 Museum, 81, Coleman-street; Asiatic Society's Museum, 5, New
 Burlington-street; Bank of England Museum (collection of coins);
 Botanical Society's Gardens and Museum, Regent's-park; College
 of Surgeons' Museum, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Guildhall Museum
 (old London antiquities); Linnean Society's Museum, Burlington
 House; Mint (process of coining), Tower-hill; Naval Museum,
 South Kensington; Royal Institution Museum, Albemarle-street;
 Trinity House Museum, Tower-hill; United Service Museum,
 Scotland-yard; Woolwich Arsenal.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

(All letters to be addressed to the Editor, 13, Catherine-street,
 Strand.)

The Illustrated Weekly News.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.

(REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.)

THE MODERN GUNPOWDER TREASON.

THE course of action determined on and pursued by the Fenian leaders, has so roused public opinion against them, that we may be sure the utmost vigour and severity will be used to put down and stamp out the disloyal Irish-American element amongst us, which is creating so much mischief, rowdiness, and bloodshed. Never in our time has so profound and universal a sensation of horror and indignation thrilled through London as that which the murderous outrage of Friday awakened. Indeed, in our time there has not been committed in any civilised land so great a crime against society. Epithets are thrown away upon it; no words can properly qualify a deed which, a few years ago, we should all have pronounced impossible. It is a crime for which no excuse can even be pleaded. Were the Fenian recognised belligerents, had they an army in the field, were they engaged in actual civil war here in the midst of London, we need hardly point out that the deed of Friday would remain as utterly without palliation as it is now. It is absurd to talk or think of warfare in connection with such acts. No warfare that is tolerated among any race more civilised than the worst and most ferocious of the Red Indian tribes recognises or permits such strategy. Observe that the excuse, if such it could be called, that the gunpowder was not exploded as a means of rescuing prisoners, is not possible to be sustained. Had there been an attempt to storm or even to break into the prison, had a band of desperate wretches suddenly appeared in arms, and, rushing through the breach in the prison walls, attempted at the risk of their lives to carry away their comrades, the plot would not be excusable, but it would at least be intelligible. It would have presented something like a purpose; it would have bore something like a resemblance to open warfare; it would at least not have been barbarous, blind, and wholesale assassination. But the hideous crime of Friday, the crime of which murdered and mutilated infants are the principal results, stands, so far as we know, absolutely without comparison in the history of modern conspiracies. The Fieschi attempt, the Orsini attempt, the murder of Abraham Lincoln seem intelligible and almost excusable projects when compared with it. We must say that the only conspiracies, real or fictitious, which at all suggest a condition of mind and heart analogous to that which planned the deed of Friday, are such plots as those which were said to have been discovered during the late American war—plots to introduce yellow fever into great cities, to set fire to the vast hotels of this or that large town, and the other projects of a like character which most of us at the time felt inclined to set down as the mere offspring of heated imaginations in a season of abnormal passion and panic. It may be interesting to our readers to know that the outrage of Friday

is not the first attack from without that has been made upon the House of Detention. In 1615 the Middlesex justices built a House of Correction upon a plot of garden ground in Clerkenwell purchased by them. The ground and the building cost about £2,500. On Shrove Tuesday, 1617, the turbulent London 'prentices "had a cast at the New Bridewell" beyond St. John-street." About 1630, and again in 1651, many religious and dangerous enthusiasts were incarcerated here for blasphemy. In 1661 Pepys visited this prison to see a friend of his wife, who was confined therein. On Shrove Tuesday, 1668, the London 'prentices again assailed the prison, and released therefrom some of their companions. In 1669, Richard Baxter was imprisoned in this gaol. In May, 1679, there was a "fire at the New Prison, by Clerkenwell, whereby the greater part of the house was burnt down, and it was presumed on very violent suspicions to be set fire by a Papist that was there in custody, and that by that means escaped." Towards the close of the seventeenth century a new prison was erected on the south side of the old Bridewell, and for many years they stood and did duty together; but about 1804 the latter building was pulled down. In 1774-75 the new prison was rebuilt on a more commodious plan. During the riots of 1780 a party of the insurgents came to this gaol and insisted on the release of the prisoners. They soon broke open the wicket door, and brought shavings in order to set fire to the prison; but some of them reflecting, that the street being narrow, the flames might hurt the innocent neighbourhood, desisted (how unlike the Fenians!); and with pickaxes they broke open the gates and got the prisoners out. In 1781 a disturbance broke out in the new prison, and the prisoners attempted to break open the gates; but after a skirmish in which three prisoners were killed and twelve wounded the rest were subdued. In 1818 the gaol was almost entirely rebuilt on a more extensive plan, and the ground originally covered by the old Bridewell, and more besides, was comprised within the new walls of the House of Detention, as this building was then called. But nothing can be imagined more dreary than the forlorn hope of Fenianism that blew down the prison wall in Clerkenwell. They are fatal malefactors, nevertheless, and the public have a right to be protected from their senseless ferocity. No idea about the wildness and madness of the plot, its utter fatuity and imbecility, or the blind blundering of its agents, ought to induce the slightest disregard of the abominations its authors are ready to commit. They cannot shake, with all their desperation, one fibre of the British Empire; but they can spread death and desolation through a district and make an entire neighbourhood foul with human woe. It is socially, and not politically, that we are in fear, and from this point of view the Administration and the police must be regarded as upon their trial. It is not often, to be sure, that their energies and capacities are thus taxed. What may be the secret fancy of the Fenian chiefs in promoting these deeds is difficult to surmise. If they think to frighten the Government or the nation, they are, of course, simply demented; if they think to keep a "cause" alive, by a series of dastardly murders they mistake the times in which they live. This, however, is hardly the occasion for inquiring into their motives or hopes. It is a trite thing to say, but it is all that for the moment can practically be said, that the vigilance of the Executive must, both for the sake of dispelling extravagant alarms, and for that of diminishing the public danger, be incessant; that the authorities must not shrink from their responsibilities; that the law must make the weight of its hand unmistakably felt, and that with the facts of these atrocities before us we cannot, in any fairness or in common sense begrudge the Administration any discretion with which it may be constitutionally invested. The Government of England has a power and a meaning, and that power ought not to be brought into contempt, or that meaning misunderstood. Nor, upon either point, do we entertain the slightest fear. Certainly, the process of debasement, even in religion, must be wonderfully rapid to produce such results as these! From Wolfe Tone, captured in honourable fight, sword in hand—from Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the chivalrous gentleman whom English statesmen lamented; nay, from Smith O'Brien and Meagher—what a distance must Irish rebellion have traversed to come down within so short a time to the miscreants of Friday's massacre! Ireland is, indeed, just now to be pitied. If these are her friends, tell us who else are not her enemies. We cannot but believe that this deed will produce a reaction and a revulsion in the feeling even of Irish rebels. It would be a sin against human nature to suppose that there can exist anywhere many creatures so utterly base and wicked as they who planned and they who perpetrated the crime over which now all England shudders.

HARDSHIPS OF JEWS.

"An Israelite" writes to us to complain of a wrong habitually inflicted upon his people by the English press, which, we admit, might in future be advantageously abated. He says, that whenever a Jew is accused of any offence, the reporters invariably attempt to enhance the criminality of the act by specifying the creed of the offender. "Now if this were the practice adopted towards all culprits," says our correspondent, "if we were in the habit of reading in the *Times* that 'Thomas Crupper, a Baptist cabman, had been brought up to Bow-street for abusive language,' or that 'Captain Montagu Tomkyns, a Puseyite dragon, had been fined £5 for having given a prostitute a bad half sovereign and a black eye,' I should have no ground of complaint; but as no paper is in the habit of entering into such details with respect to prisoners of other religions, I do think it hard that the creed of my forefathers should be so constantly quoted against us Jews *ad invidiam*." We agree with "An Israelite" that he has a substantial grievance against the press; and we promise that, as far as we ourselves are concerned, he shall have no further cause for complaint. No more loyal, peaceable, and charitable race exists than the English Jews.—*Tall Mall Gazette*.

PUBLIC OPINION.

INTOLERANCE TO CATHOLICS.

WITH regard to the question of Catholic chaplains in gaols, we cannot agree with those who think that the apparent pettiness of the grievances which Catholics have to allege against the inequalities of English institutions is a demonstration of the perfect equity of the system under which we live. That Catholics have to search in obscure places for proofs that they are oppressed may show that there is no oppression of independent persons, of men who have direct means of vindicating their rights and appealing to public opinion. On the other hand, that such grievances exist where they do may be taken to indicate that the dogmatic rights which the State has renounced are still claimed by great bodies of the administrators of the law, and enforced by them with a cowardly and sneaking kind of tyranny, which, prevented from attacking those who can defend themselves, solaces itself with a safe oppression of those whom ill-fortune has put into their power. The ignoble nature of the oppression ought to make it all the more grievous in the estimation of honourable men, even if the whole controversy about it were confined to a personal altercation between individual members of hostile confessions. But the controversy is one of greater importance, for it concerns a symptom of the real spirit of our political administration. It shows that religious liberty is not really understood even by those who profess most to honour it.—*Chronicle*.

PROFESSIONAL "ADOPTERS" OF CHILDREN.

The mischievous results of permitting all kinds of persons to advertise for children are sufficiently clear. Every one will admit that the system is a wicked one, but one side who is concerned in it finds it profitable, and the other side regards it as necessary. Intimidation is needed, and argument would be useless. We are obliged to depend upon the law when reasoning and remonstrance fail. The coroners' records attest the truth that child murder is on the increase, and very shortly "adoption" will be understood as another name for child murder. If those who have the command of public organs persist in lending themselves to the creatures who carry on the trade, it would be of little use to appeal to them on the ground of public morals. But we may hope that some recent circumstances will open their eyes to the real nature of the work into which they are entrapped, and induce them to reject the profit to be gained by it. As to the "adopters" themselves, it is clearly necessary to inquire carefully into the death of every child which happens in their houses. In the event of suspicious death, measures ought to be taken to discover the mother, and if the law is brought properly to bear upon the reputed parents, they will soon busy themselves in seeking out the partners of their guilt. These are measures which society is called upon to take in self-defence. All persons who advertise their readiness to adopt children should be quietly looked after by the police. The professional "adopter" should be made to comprehend that he places himself in great danger by proclaiming his occupation.—*Times*.

THE PROHIBITION OF THE FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

With regard to the prohibition of the Irish Government of the funeral processions we think that it has been a matter of surprise to everybody who cares for peace and order that these fantastic, ill-intentioned, and most dangerous proceedings should have been tolerated so long. Everything that was known of these mock funerals raised them into a far higher category of political crime than the foolish ebullitions of Orange zeal. They can only be regarded as armed demonstrations; as much so, indeed, as the sudden armaments, the armies of observation, and other preliminaries of actual war, with which a warlike nation sometimes menaces the neighbour whose policy it desires to overrule. As for the women, and the children, and the "Christian Brothers," they were nothing but stage properties in the demonstration, and as such a pretence and disguise as the prayers and the hymns desecrated for the occasion. The essence of the affair was the display of numbers and the military organisation. If there be two Governments in a country, one of them such as that now claiming the possession of the streets, and the other sitting still, the former must increase, and the latter decrease, till it perishes from simple want of self-assertion. Thus far there seems no reason to fear this act has been deferred too long. Government can hardly be said to have chosen its own time; for it has not had the chance, but it is some comfort to think that an outbreak during the next month or two would have to encounter some physical difficulties. There are times for all things, even for rebellions. That time has not yet come, but that it might have come, and, indeed, that it must have come but for this interference, is almost certain.—*Times*.

Even before the outrage of Friday night there could not be two opinions as to the propriety of the step which has been taken by the Irish Government. Apart from the providential revelation that has burst upon us, it was already full time that the open defiance of the law should be put down. The Irish Church, the land question, all the other Irish "grievances," await solution, but the present affair is one not of politics but of police. Are the streets to be kept quiet? Is the law to be respected? Are open provocations to rebellion to be repressed?—*Telegraph*.

THE FENIAN OUTRAGE AT CLERKENWELL.

In the miscreants who committed the atrocious outrage at Clerkenwell are capable of remorse, they may well be overcome by the thoughts of their day's work. Burke and Casey are still safe in confinement. Nothing that their friends can do is now likely to deliver them from the necessity of answering for their actions at the bar of justice. The conspirators have to no purpose committed a crime which will bring down on themselves and their scheme the execrations of the world. In the Irish outbreak of last March, in the attack on the prison van at Manchester, in this traitorous enterprise at Clerkenwell, the Fenians have shown that they shrink not from bloodshed, even for a most inadequate end. Their object is now, apparently, to create a terror throughout the United Kingdom, and such is their unscrupulous ferocity that with a large class of the community they may so far succeed. If the country, however, can do nothing else, it can take care that those who actually suffer at the hands of these public enemies shall not want care in their sufferings and compensation for their losses. As to the Fenian conspiracy itself, it must be evident that the time is past for clemency and forbearance. With traitors and assassins such as these there can be but one course. But, while doing strict and stern justice on the guilty, we may separate them in our minds from the excitable and deluded. It may be that this great crime will cure many who have taken the infection of Fenianism. At least let England show that, whatever may have to be done, she will allow neither fear nor anger to sway the balance of justice.—*Times*.

THE BROMLEY CASE.

THOUGH at the risk of appearing a little hard-hearted, we cannot help asking a question or two in reference to this shocking account of the death of a man from starvation in Bromley, of which a second narrative has just been given by an eye-witness of the sufferings of the family. The deceased had been it is stated, originally in good circumstances, but had been ruined through becoming surety for a friend. We need not repeat the horrible particulars of the condition in which the unfortunate family were found. It is enough to say that the father was lying dead and that upon the same floor were five young children in a state of starvation, one of them delirious, and the mother all but dead and in agonies of pain; and that there was neither fire, food nor fur-

niture in the room. How was it, then, it is obvious to ask, that such an awful state of things was possible? On whose shoulders rests the responsibility of having allowed a man to die upon the floor and his whole family to be brought to the point of death, and nobody to know anything about it until they were discovered by a chance visitor? Was any application for relief made to the parish authorities? And if so, when was it first made, and did the authorities neglect or attend to the application? It need not be added that it is not the duty of any parochial officials to seek out every sick and famished family for the purpose of relieving them; but that it is their duty instantly to act on every proper application. If, on the other hand, no such application was made, what are we to think of the feelings of a father who would rather see his wife and children die of cold and hunger than demean himself to apply to the parish? If a ruined man, once in respectable circumstances, chooses to die rather than ask for help, it is his own affair whether he thus commits suicide or not. But for any man thus to prefer the nursing of his pride to the lives of his wife and children, is nothing less than a crime of the deepest dye, and no false sympathy.

NAPOLEON'S POLICY.

"THE Pope wants Rome, and Italy cannot do without it. We declare that Italy shall not seize upon Rome. France will never submit to such a violence committed on her honour and on Catholicity in general. She demands from Italy the vigorous and energetic execution of the Convention of September, and if this be not conceded she will supply the deficiency herself. Is that clear enough?" Thus spoke M. Rouher on December 6, 1865, clearly enough with a vengeance; but not more so than when, on April 15, 1865, he uttered the following words, and also in reply to M. Thiers:—"Do you desire to proclaim that the Romans have no national sovereignty; that they have neither nationality, nor public right, nor personal sovereignty? Do you wish to subordinate them to Catholicity? There is in this an enormous danger for the Catholic Church and for the Holy See; there is in it an error respecting public law. To declare the servitude of a people necessary for the maintenance of the Pontifical throne is to present a sorry gift to the Papacy." We are somewhat curious, too, to know what sort of explanation or apology the French Government will offer to the great and little Powers it had previously invited to a Conference. It was but the other day we were told that France declined the responsibility of deciding on a matter which concerned all Catholic States, and indirectly the whole of Europe. But it now seems that France has actually taken upon herself the very responsibility she then modestly put away from her. Of course there will be no Conference now; nor is it very likely that any Court which respects itself will ever again turn a patient ear to any sort of overtures from the ambiguous oracle of the Tuilleries. "Foi de gentilhomme" is not a Napoleonic attestation.

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

In regard to protection against fire in theatres and great public buildings, the first thing to be established, before and above all others, is system. The precautions proved or promising to be most effectual should be enforced everywhere, and with such uniformity that the least experienced or most frightened attendant would know, as if mechanically, how to act on emergency. The next step is to divide the risk—that is, to separate the stage and the parts of the house occupied by the performers from the parts devoted to the use of the audience. This might easily be done by a strong party wall, to be connected at the moment of need by a strong iron curtain or drop-scene. Such an arrangement would detach one-half of the house from the other, and give the spectators an important chance of safety. Yet such, after all, is the terrible danger attending scenic representations that it is only by a combination of securities that comparative protection can be insured. First, the building itself should be, as far as possible, made fireproof, or, rather, should be so constructed as to offer the greatest possible resistance to the progress of a fire; and if architects cannot achieve such an end, engineers should be called in. Then there should be a water supply at high pressure for instant service, so as to provide some check to the flames; and, lastly, the spread of a conflagration being thus retarded for the greatest number of minutes, the means of egress should suffice in the least number of minutes for the emptying the house. These things, among others, they really do seem to manage better in France. In Paris, an elaborate system of precautions is organized and placed under one superintendent, the chief of the Sapeurs Pompiers, or, as we should say, the head of the Fire Brigade. At every theatre the arrangements are uniform, or as nearly so as the peculiarities of the building will permit; while the chief and his firemen enter the theatres with a full knowledge of their duties, and full authority to act. No theatre can be opened except upon a certificate given by the chief after inspection, and he, at his discretion, can on any night order any part of the performance to be stopped. At every theatre, during every performance, a guard of firemen is stationed, consisting of an officer or subaltern and a company of men varying from ten to fifty in number; and when the Emperor goes to the Opera there are 200 on duty. Such service, no doubt, is more practicable in Paris, where there are 1,300 firemen, than in London, where, even after the latest augmentations, there are only 227; but we can, at least, take example from the system of our neighbours, if no more.

THE SCHOOLMASTER IN DEVONSHIRE.

It "the schoolmaster is abroad" in Devonshire, it is to be feared that he does not make good use of his time. Mary Catherine Murray, aged fifty, was brought on Tuesday before the Plymouth bench, charged with having imposed upon Thomas Rendle by means of a slip of parchment which he called "a charm." Rendle is a labourer living at Modbury, and earning 10s. a week, out of which he had contrived to save a few pounds. His wife was taken ill, and he was told she had been "ill wished." So he betook himself to Mrs. Murray, who enjoys a high reputation as a healer of bewitched individuals. Mrs. Murray advised Mr. Rendle "to go and see the planets," and to gather certain herbs in Modbury churchyard for twenty-one nights. For this advice she only charged poor Rendle a guinea; but she afterwards extracted from him £3 9s. for some powders and "a skin," which his wife was to wear round her neck, putting it on for the first time on a Sunday, whilst she burnt the powders in the fire. As soon as the last powder had been burnt, Mrs. Rendle was to read the 91st Psalm, and to swallow some medicine in a bottle, which Mrs. Murray also provided. But as no beneficial result ensued from this treatment, Rendle summoned Mrs. Murray before the magistrates, and the defence the prisoner made was, that she really did possess the powers of healing she assumed to possess, and that all other medical practitioners, allopathic, homoeopathic, and mesmeric, occasionally met with diseases which set their remedies at naught. In spite of this ingenious plea the Plymouth magistrates remanded Mrs. Murray, and refused to accept bail.

THE BLOOD, THE BLOOD.—When the blood is impure the whole body suffers. Then come indigestion, lowness of spirits, loss of flesh, nervousness, and a general feeling of discomfort. A course of "THE BLOOD PURIFIER," OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S SASSAPARILLA acts specifically on the blood, purifying it of all vitiated humours. The digestion becomes easy, the spirits buoyant, the body regains its strength, and the mind its tranquillity. Sold by all druggists. Chief Depot, 131, Fleet-street. *Caution—Get the red and blue wrappers with the Old Doctor's head in the centre; no other genuine.*—[ADVT.]

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

IN conformity with the requirements of the 200th section of the Metropolis Local Management Act, 1855, 18 and 19 Vic., c. 120, the Board now submit a statement of their proceedings during the past year, in exercise of the powers and authorities conferred upon them by that statute, the Metropolitan Buildings Act, 1855, and the several other Acts which confer authority on the board.

MAIN DRAINAGE OF THE METROPOLIS.

The board desire to advert briefly to the important works in connection with the main drainage, and to the fact that the whole of those works which were commenced by them in the year 1859, under the powers of the Act passed in the previous year, which had for their object the purification of the Thames, and the relief of the low-lying districts within the metropolis, are, with the exception of the Northern Low Level Sewer, completed, and have been in operation for some time past. About 82 miles of sewers, in addition to the several pumping stations, have been constructed for the drainage of an area of about 117 square miles, embracing a population of nearly three millions. The sewage of that part of the area which lies on the north side of the Thames, and which is intercepted daily in its passage towards the river, amounts at present to about 10,000,000, and that on the south side to about 4,000,000 cubic feet. The question of increasing this drainage area has, during the past year, been specially brought under the attention of the board by applications from various parishes and places immediately adjacent to the metropolis, seeking for permission to relieve their districts from the accumulating foul waters by draining them into the main intercepting system. The subject is one of considerable importance, not only as affecting the applicants but the metropolitan ratepayers, and the board have, therefore, referred it to a committee, with instructions to obtain information on the subject, with a view to dealing with it in a manner most conducive to the public interests.

NORTHERN LOW LEVEL SEWER AND BRANCHES.

This line of sewer, as already stated, is the only one remaining to be constructed to complete the main intercepting scheme. It has been designed for taking the sewage directly from an area of about eleven square miles, and is also intended to form the main outlet for the western district, which comprises about fourteen square miles. The area of the latter district is so low that its sewage will have to be lifted a height of 17½ ft. into the Low Level Sewer.

Those portions of the sewer which now remain to be constructed for are the western portion extending from Westminster Bridge to Cremorne New-road, and the part which extends from the eastern end of the Temple to Tower-hill. Between Westminster Bridge and the Temple it is being constructed in connection with the Northern Embankment. The western portion remains in abeyance, it being the intention of the board to construct that part of the sewer between Battersea Bridge and Chelsea Hospital in connection with the proposed embankment of the river at Chelsea, the bill for which is now before Parliament. The construction of the remaining portion of the sewer from the eastern extremity of the Temple to Tower-hill has, up to the present time, been deferred, in consequence of the failure of the Metropolitan District Railway Company to commence their works, which are to be formed under the embankment, and a portion of the new street from Blackfriars Bridge to the Mansion House.

PURIFICATION OF THE THAMES.

The fact stated in a recent report to Parliament that "five great water companies draw water from the Thames for the west and south of the metropolis" is in itself sufficient to show the importance of ensuring the purity of the Thames, and the necessity which exists for the utmost vigilance, combined with practical measures, for effecting that object.

The Board reported last year that a marked improvement had taken place in the condition of the river since the completion of the principal lines of the main drainage scheme, by which a large proportion of the sewage has been intercepted from that portion of the river which passes through the metropolis. The number of fish now observed in the tidal part of the Thames, and in those parts which were in the most polluted state, viz., near London Bridge, show conclusively that this improvement is progressive. This will become more evident as the upland waters scour the river, and the subsidiary main lines are improved and connected with the main intercepting channels. It will be seen by reference to the paragraphs of this report relating to the covering of main sewers, that a considerable amount of this work has been done during the past year. Good progress is also being made with the Abbey Mills Pumping Station, which will very materially contribute towards the purification of the river, by relieving the low levels on the north side of the sewage, and sending it down to a point where it will be harmless, until, by the works of the Essex Reclamation Company, it is either utilized on the farm lands of Essex or distributed on the reclaimed sands of Maplin.

It may also be mentioned, in connection with this subject, that there is much reason to believe that the completion of the Thames Embankment works, especially if the Board is provided with the requisite funds for completing the line of embankment between Chelsea Hospital and Battersea Bridge, will conduce to the greater purity of the river by quickening its flow and increasing its scouring power. In addition to which there will be the very important improvement which will result from the conversion of the foul and unwholesome mud banks, by means of the embankment works, into useful and ornamental thoroughfares.

There is, however, another question connected with this subject which is of equal interest to the Metropolis, and has formed the subject of comment in former reports, and must again be mentioned.

The Board, in their Report for the year 1865-6, stated that they had urged upon the Government the necessity for prohibiting the discharge of Sewage into the Thames from any Town or Village above the Metropolis. The Chairman of the Board also directed the attention of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on Metropolitan Local Government to the same subject. He stated "We have no control over any district beyond our area, and it is a matter which will require the attention of Parliament before long how far our Public Streams should be polluted by Sewage. If we are called upon to improve our River at a cost of £1,200,000 I think it follows logically that Kingston and other towns should be called upon to purify their Sewage, or we have a great injustice put upon us. No doubt we realise a great improvement in health by the course which has been adopted, and the result of the Main Drainage last year was to reduce the mortality about 10 per cent." Again, speaking of the districts lying beyond the limits of the Board's jurisdiction, he said, "I think it would be for those districts to deal with their own sewage by deodorization, or utilization in some way, so that it should not come into the Thames."

As a result of the consideration which has been given to this subject it may be mentioned that three Acts of Parliament have recently been passed, all more or less directed to the object of the purification of the Thames.

The first is the Sewage Utilization Act, 1865. Its intention is to give powers to the local authorities of places without the metropolitan area, which are not governed by the Metropolitan Health Act and Local Government Act, to construct sewers for the drainage of towns, and to enter into contracts with the view of utilizing the sewage. It also authorises the authorities to take proceedings by indictment, bill in chancery, action, or otherwise, for protecting watercourses from pollution by sewage, and it expressly forbids sewer authorities making sewers so as to drain direct into any stream or watercourse.

The second measure was the Thames Navigation Act, 1866, which was introduced for the purpose of giving effect to the recom-

mendations of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the best means of preventing the pollution of rivers.

This Act, which vests the conservancy of the rivers Thames and Isis, from Staines in Middlesex to Crickdale in the county of Wilts, in the Thames Conservators, contains stringent clauses for preventing the pollution of the Upper Thames by means of sewage, or otherwise. Upon the introduction of this measure the Board communicated with Her Majesty's Government with a view to being represented on the Conservancy Board. This correspondence is set out in the appendix to the report of the Board for the year 1865-6. The chairman of the Board also gave evidence before the select committee on the bill, and urged that, upon the ordinary principles of representation the Board had a right to ask for representation on the Conservancy Board, first, so far as their jurisdiction is concerned—namely, up to Mortlake and down to Barking Creek, and, secondly, in order to secure the purity of the river, and prevent the pollution of the water which is used for domestic purposes by the inhabitants of the metropolis; and that the Board had also a right to some representation as to the control of the upper part of the stream. The select committee, however, did not consider it necessary that the Board should be represented at the Conservancy Board, and the Act was passed in accordance with their views.

In the same session a third Act having relation to this subject was passed. It is intitled "The Thames Purification Act, 1866."

Its preamble states that "Whereas under certain existing arrangements the Sewage of Towns situate on the River Thames above the Metropolis is carried into the River Thames and thereby the waters of the River are polluted, and the health and comfort of the Inhabitants of the Valley of the River below those Towns and the Metropolis are affected"—and it goes on to show that it would be of great local and public advantage if the sewage were to be diverted from the river, and that if it were diverted it might be utilized for the fertilization of land; and then follow provisions to give powers for the purification of the river by the diversion therefrom of the sewage of Oxford, Abingdon, Reading, Kingston, Richmond, Twickenham, Isleworth, and Brentford, and for the collection and utilization of that sewage.

This measure, if carried into execution, will be of great service in effecting the purification of the metropolitan portion of the river. It is also satisfactory to find that provision is thus made from diverting from the Thames the sewage of those very places which were specially brought under the notice of Lord Palmerston in the letter from the chairman of this Board, dated 12th of May, 1864. It was there stated that although "at the present time the sewage of Hampton, Chertsey, Staines, Eton, Windsor, Maidenhead, Marlow, Henley, Reading, Wallingford, Abingdon, and Oxford does not materially affect the metropolis, it will be well to remember that in 1852, by the Metropolitan Water Act, the metropolitan water companies were prohibited from taking their supply below Teddington lock, and that they consequently made arrangements for taking it from the Thames at Thames Ditton and Hampton, and that with that supply the drainage of the towns above enumerated is being distributed to the consumers, a source of pollution which will become more and more serious, as those towns avail themselves of the benefits of an improved system of house drainage."

It was further stated, that if the sewage of those towns, situate at a considerable distance from the metropolis, is at present sufficiently diluted to have become innocuous before reaching London, such could not be said to be the case with that of Kingston, Teddington, Twickenham, Richmond, Isleworth, Brentford, Chiswick, Croydon, and many others, whose local contributions to the stream would become, both absolutely as well as relatively, greater year by year, and as the main drainage works approach completion.

It was further observed, that to provide a complete system of interception for the whole of the towns and villages at present discharging into the basin of the Thames, would obviously be far too costly a burden to impose upon them, but it was believed that the resources of modern science would present solutions for such a problem other than that of interception.

It now only remains to mention the bill which has been introduced into Parliament during the present session, by the Thames Conservancy Commissioners, for extending the provisions of the Thames Navigation Act, 1866, to the Thames between Staines and the Metropolis, for the prevention of the pollution of the river, and for other purposes.

The Board, on the introduction of this bill, again urged upon Parliament the importance of giving them some representation at the Thames Conservancy Board. A petition was presented against the bill, in which it was suggested, amongst other things, that, inasmuch as the provisions of the Thames Navigation Act were sought to be incorporated with, and applied to, the Thames, from the City Stone near Staines to the western boundary of the Metropolis, and to so much of every river, stream, cut, dock, canal, and water-course, communicating with that part of the Thames, as lies within three miles of the Thames, measured in a direct line therefrom, it was more than expedient that the Board should be represented at the Thames Conservancy Board, in order that all the operations of the Board undertaken for the drainage of the Metropolis and the purification of the Thames might harmonize with the proposed works of the promoters of the bill.

Further, that as the river Thames passes through the whole area of the Board's jurisdiction from West to East, and the flood-water outlets discharge into its bed, the Board would necessarily have a concurrent, and sometimes a conflicting, interest in the government of the river.

In concluding, the Board submitted that as they represented 3,000,000 of the inhabitants of the metropolis, they were consequently deeply interested in preserving the purity of the river, and moreover, as they had extensive works upon its bed and foreshore, which constantly brought them into contact with the Conservators in reference to those works, provision should be made for their representation at the Conservancy Board to enable them to join in executing, not only the powers and duties under the bill, but under existing Acts relating to the Thames Conservancy.

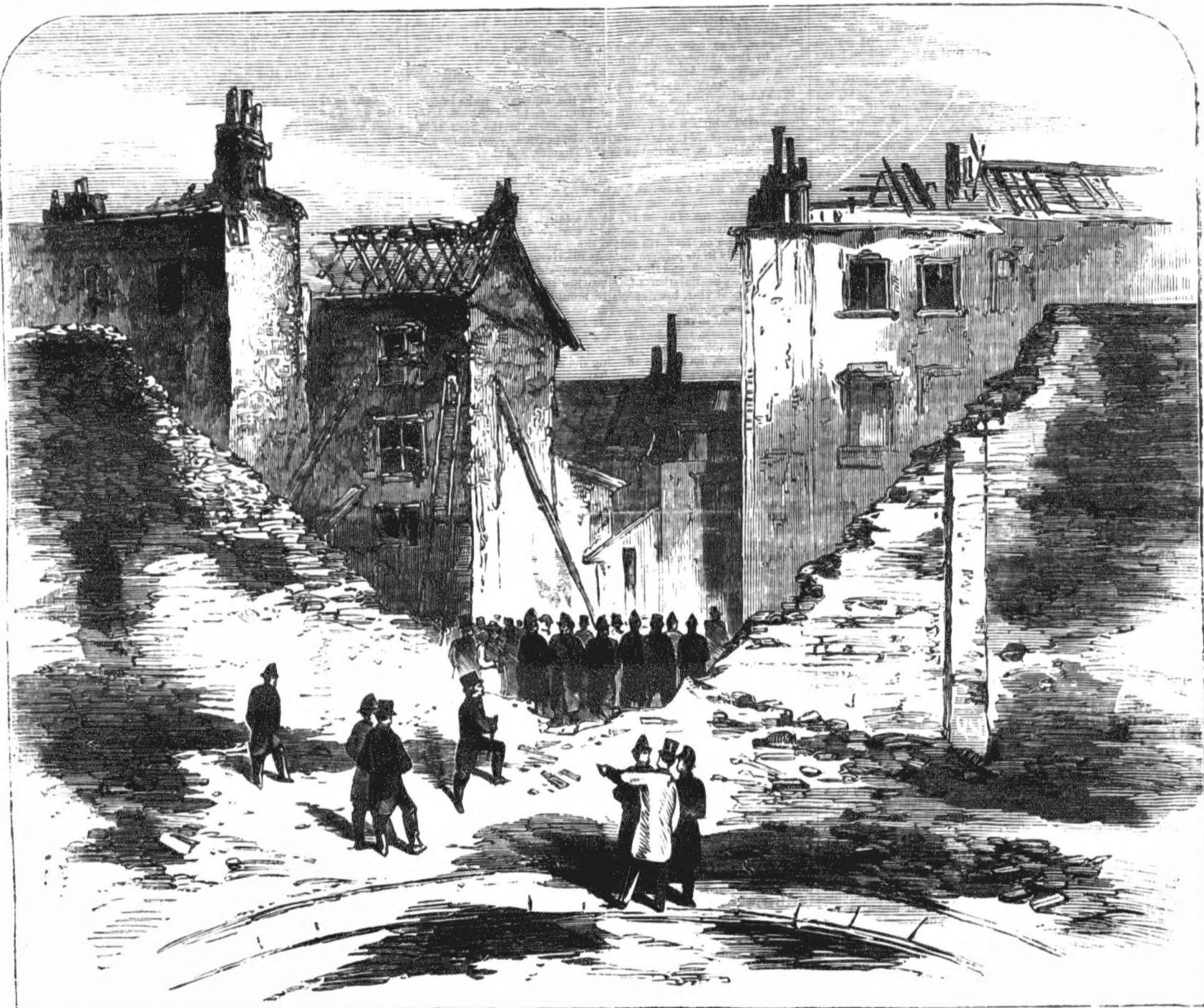
THE HEAD MASTERSHIP OF ETON.

It has been formally announced that the present Head Master of Eton has sent in his resignation, and that the Provost and Fellows of the college will proceed to the election of his successor on the 31st inst.; and in another of our contemporaries it is stated that their choice will fall on the Rev. W. Warre, one of the assistant masters. We believe that the statutes of the college enact that such important steps as the resignation of a head master and the appointment of his successor—matters of too great importance to be hurriedly accomplished—shall not take place without formal notice of at least six months having been given. And if ever there was a time at which the appointment of a head master for Eton College should be conducted with all due formality and deliberation, it is surely now, when the Public Schools Bill—the result of the late Royal Commission of Inquiry into the state and conduct of these schools—is actually in process of becoming law.

AMERICA AND DENMARK.—The American House of Representatives has adopted a resolution declaring that the country desires no more territory, and will not hold itself bound to make any appropriation on any further bargains of that kind which the Administration may make. The resolution states that it has no reference to Walrusia, but is intended as a warning to Denmark.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

OWING to want of space the POISONER'S DAUGHTER is continued in our Christmas Supplement, issued with the current number.



THE FENIAN OUTRAGE—VIEW OF THE BREACH INSIDE THE PRISON.

THE FENIAN OUTRAGE.

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE.)

lives were not sacrificed. Every exertion was made by the police and by the fire brigade to prevent this. Some of the houses in Corporation-row which were most severely damaged were at once pulled down. About 500 of the metropolitan police were on duty keeping off the crowd and preserving order, and 100 of the Fusilier Guards, under the command of Colonel Moncreiff, were posted as a guard inside the prison throughout the night. Many of the county magistrates were also in attendance.

Various circumstances are related which tend to show that the object of the outrage was the liberation of the Fenian prisoners. In the course of the day a policeman on duty outside the prison had his suspicions so strongly aroused by seeing a woman named Justice and a man frequently conversing together that he communicated with one of the prison authorities, who, in consequence, made arrangements for giving an alarm if it should become necessary. During the day a warder on duty inside had his attention directed to a man at a window in the upper part of a house in Woodbridge-street, overlooking the prison yard. He went to bring another warder, and on their return the man had vanished, but was shortly after seen talking to the woman near the entrance of the prison, and to the man who had been seen loitering with her. The latter man wore a white apron, and had the appearance of a shoemaker. Later in the day the warder had his attention called to the same window in the opposite house in Woodbridge-street, overlooking the prison yard, and there he saw a woman leaning out, and several men inside the room. He distinctly counted five men, but there seemed to him to be more, and they were all looking anxiously in the direction of the place where the explosion occurred almost immediately afterwards.

Some very extraordinary incidents are related in connection with the explosion. The following are specimens:—A Mr. Clutton, a tradesman in Leather-lane, at the time it took place was in his stable in Davies-street, attending to his horse, when he was struck dead on the spot. On being examined, his left breast bore the appearance of having been completely smashed in. Mr. Terry, builder, residing at the house next but one to his premises, was sitting in his counting-house reading, when he was thrown violently from his chair to the ground, the chair itself being shivered in pieces. Mr. Terry fortunately escaped with a few bruises.

Mrs. Holder, a widow, living at 4, Corporation-lane, and now in St. Bartholomew's, says about half-past three a man knocked at her door, and, upon her son answering, the man asked to be allowed to go to the top story of the house to be enabled to see his cousin and speak to him when exercising in the yard of the House of Detention. His application was refused, and he went away. About ten minutes afterwards the explosion occurred. It is understood that her son will be able to identify the man.

In addition to these facts it is stated that Mr. Henry Pownall, the chairman of the county magistrates, in consequence of information he had received, paid a visit to the prison and directed the

governor, Captain Codd, not to exercise the prisoners in the ordinary way either as to time or place. The wall which had been blown down enclosed a large open space in which the prisoners were accustomed to take exercise. The governor, therefore, had them exercised between nine and ten in the morning, instead of the usual time, which was between three and half-past four in the afternoon, so that they were not in the yard when the explosion took place.

Three persons were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the outrage. Two men and a woman were seized on the spot, and were locked up in the Clerkenwell House of Detention. One of them gives the name of Jeremiah Allen, and says he is a boot-maker, and 36 years of age. The other states that his name is Timothy Desmond, and that he is a tailor, and 46 years of age. The woman is the Anne Justice before mentioned, and her age is thirty. The eyes of one of the men—Desmond—is injured. One man and the woman were captured by an officer in plain clothes, whose name had not been ascertained, but it is understood that the movements of four persons—three men and one woman—caused him to suspect their object, and he rushed forward to seize them, but at the moment was knocked down by the explosion. He fortunately was not much injured, and rising again to his feet, he seized one of the men and the woman, whom he took into custody; another of the men was seized by some other officer, while the third man—and the man who did the deed—managed to escape.

Both on Friday night and Saturday the scene of the explosion was visited by large numbers of people. No one, however, was allowed to enter the streets immediately surrounding the prison without special authority. All the approaches were guarded by detachments of police, and in some cases barricades of strong beams were erected to keep off the crowd. The houses in Corporation-lane are all more or less shattered; those just opposite the place where the breach was made in the prison wall are completely gutted, the whole of the fronts having been blown out. An effort has been made to take down the more tottering portions of these buildings and to shore up the ruins, and orders have been given to pull them all down as soon as possible. As they now stand they are in a very dangerous condition, and a strong wind would probably bring them down with a run. The shock of the explosion has thoroughly loosened the walls where they have not been blown right away. Here and there some little pictures and other ornaments still remain attached to the walls; there is a fire-place suspended high in air, with a kettle on the hob; a little wooden dove-cote in one of the garrets has been spared, although the roof has completely disappeared, and a pigeon was seen fluttering over it this morning, evidently perplexed to know whether or not it had found its right home. The houses in the street at the back of Corporation-lane have been a good deal shaken, and windows have been smashed in most of the streets round the gaol—even on the side furthest from the blown-up wall. Had the prisoners been in the exercising-yard when the explosion occurred, they could hardly have escaped severe injuries, if not destruction. It seems probable that Burke and Casey had warning of the attempt, and had they

been in the yard at the time would probably have kept as far as possible from the wall to which powder was to be applied. But this precaution would not have saved them from the tremendous shower of bricks which struck the opposite wall, dinting it all over, and splashing it with red dust.

The whole of the circumstances connected with the diabolical deed are now fully known. The depositions of many eye-witnesses who almost miraculously escaped have been taken, and there is no difficulty in stating what were the means adopted to compass their end by the scoundrels who do murder in the name of patriotism. It is now all but certain that the destructive composition placed in the barrel was not gunpowder alone. It is, in the first place, very doubtful if a barrel of gunpowder would have wrought such damage, and this led to the belief that with the powder was mixed some such substance as chlorate of potash. But since that surmise was mooted a portion of the barrel has been found. About a quarter of a stave was picked up on the roof of a house in Rosoman-street on Saturday afternoon, and almost immediately after a whole stave was found inside the House of Detention. Both these pieces of wood are strongly impregnated with crude petroleum oil, and the smaller piece seems to have driven into it grains of the powder. Both staves are blackened but not charred, as they would have been had the explosive substance been petrol alone. The suggestion of nitroglycerine is also negatived by the smell of petrol, which was, strangely enough, immediately detected by Dr. Jeaffreson, resident surgeon of the Royal Free Hospital, as saturating the hair of a little girl, one of the patients who was first taken to that valuable institution. There remains, therefore, very little doubt that in the barrel were both petroleum and gunpowder.

The manner in which the barrel was placed in position has now been clearly ascertained. The depositions of several witnesses show that about a quarter to four o'clock a man drawing an ordinary grocer's truck entered Corporation-lane, having on his truck a barrel, covered with some such fabric as a meal sack. Having stopped and looked about to satisfy himself of the locality he suddenly wheeled the truck round so that its back was towards the prison wall, tilted it, and allowed the barrel to roll on the pavement. As this was done, two men came from a court opposite, set the barrel end on to the prison, and then one of them retired to the court, while the other struck a match which went out. Taking another lucifer from his pocket, he lit it and ignited a piece of paper which hung out of the bung hole in the barrel head. This fizzed and spluttered like a squib, and alarmed the onlookers. One of these, a milkman, ran to fetch a policeman, and met one of the extra men on duty—a constable named Moriarty. This policeman at once hurried towards the spot, was within a couple of yards of the barrel when the contents began to spurt out in flame; he ran backwards, keeping his eye on the fire all the time, and had only got seven or eight yards away when the flame leaped up, the rush of air, which was heard as far as the Crystal Palace, came, he was thrown on his back, one of the metal plates on his helmet was carried off, the skirts of his great coat were cut away as clean as if a pair of scissors had been used, but he himself was uninjured,



THE FENIAN OUTRAGE—VIEW OF THE RUINS—REMOVING THE BODIES.

except by the shock, which has placed him for a short time on the sick list. A woman who was leading along the street a child of two years old, and so necessarily walking slowly, corroborates this information in every point; and another woman, living nearly opposite, saw the same from a second-floor window. These two women and the milkman will be able to identify the man who fired the barrel, as well as the others engaged in the atrocious deed. These latter, as they ran away, were followed by one or two of the witnesses, who did not lose sight of them until they were in the policemen's hands. The man with the truck escaped.

EXAMINATION OF THE ACCUSED AT BOW STREET.

At half-past three o'clock on Saturday a prison van was taken to the House of Detention, and the prisoners having been lodged therein, police-constables, armed with cutlasses and revolvers, took their places inside and out, and the van, escorted by about forty mounted police, armed to the teeth, proceeded to Bow-street. As the van entered that thoroughfare the street was comparatively empty, as it was generally believed that the examination would have been conducted at the House of Detention; but in a very few seconds a great crowd had assembled, and before the prisoners were taken out it had become necessary that a lane should be kept by the police, who hurried across from the station-house for the purpose. As the two men and the woman left the van the crowd groaned and hissed most vehemently, to the no small apparent discomfiture of the accused. They were conducted by armed policemen straight to the dock, and at half-past four o'clock they were placed at the bar before Sir Thomas Henry, and gave the names of Timothy Desmond, Jeremiah Allen, and Anne Justice. The charge, which was to the effect that the prisoners had committed wilful murder, in association with some other persons, by means of gunpowder or other destructive composition, had been read to the accused by Mr. Superintendent Gernon, who had entered it before they left the House of Detention, where on hearing it the woman Justice—a common Irish name—cried bitterly. In the court, however, they all heard it comparatively unmoved, and the evidence was then proceeded with.

John Moore, chief warden of the House of Detention, said:—Between two and three o'clock on Friday my attention was called by a police constable to the fact of a man loitering about outside the prison, and refusing to go away, and that he was joined by a woman named Ann Justice. I found the name out by referring to the visitors' book, as she had been to see the prisoner Casey. They were reconnoitering the building, and pointing along the thoroughfares approaching the prison. I saw Allen loitering about, and also in a room at the top of one of the houses. While I was informing the governor of these suspicious circumstances we heard a great explosion. In passing that way afterwards I saw a large breach in the wall of the exercise ground. The breach was 50 to 60 yards wide. There was a great heap of rubbish in the yard formed by the wall falling in. I think Desmond is one of the men I saw there. I am quite sure about Allen. I

had recommended that he should be taken into custody for loitering for unlawful purposes.

The prisoners being asked if they wished to cross-examine the witness, Allen observed, "What he has said is nearly all true." Justice said she went out to get Casey some dinner, not knowing him herself, but having been asked to do so by his mother. She was about to enter into some further particulars, when Sir Thomas Henry observed that she had better reserve her defence until she had heard the evidence.

Desmond asked how long he was there?

The witness said not above one or two minutes.

Ambrose Sutton, 273 A Reserve, said he was employed to watch persons coming to see the prisoners Burke and Casey. On Friday afternoon he saw Allen and Justice at the top of St. James's-walk in conversation. Allen waited outside while Justice went in with Casey's dinner, and spoke to her again when she came out. He also saw Desmond there, and a fourth person, a man, who after knocking against him, begged his pardon and went on. He came back and asked a question, to which witness replied that he could not give the information, being a stranger in the neighbourhood. He saw a barrel and a truck, apparently upset, near which they had been standing, and after he heard the explosion he saw the prisoners running away. He took Desmond and Justice into custody.

Sir T. Henry: You, of course, obtained instant assistance?

Witness: Yes.

Desmond: Will you swear that I ever left the public-house for more than two minutes?

Witness: Yes.

Desmond: Then you perjure yourself.

Sir T. Henry: You must not make such observations. You can put any questions to any of the witnesses, but you must not impute perjury. Have you any questions to put, Allen?

Allen: All I have to say is, that I was assisting Desmond, who was intoxicated when I first saw him at the public-house.

Justice: I deny that I ever ran with Allen.

Allen: It was enough to make any person run—such an explosion.

On this evidence Mr. Gernon applied for a remand, which the chief magistrate at once granted. The prisoners were not removed back to the House of Detention. We are not at liberty to state in what prison they are now lodged; but the public may rest assured that they, with Burke and Casey, are safe for the present at any rate.

ATTEMPT TO FIRE CITY WAREHOUSES.

Another outrage, which there is some reason to believe has been done by Fenian agents, was attempted on Saturday night, but, happily, without success, owing to its speedy discovery, and the prompt means taken to avert what would doubtless otherwise have resulted in the destruction of a large amount of valuable property, and would at the same time have deprived about 500 persons of employment. It appears that on Saturday night, soon after

eleven o'clock, a Mrs. Cross the proprietress of a coffee-house, and a portion of whose premises overlook Two Swan-yard, a narrow thoroughfare leading from Bishopsgate-street Without to Liverpool-buildings, heard a loud report, and upon looking out of the window she discovered that the whole of the front of one of the doorways of the extensive range of buildings in which Messrs. Parnell and Co. carry on the business of wholesale clothiers, was in flames. An alarm was at once given, and several of the members of the Bishopsgate-street Fire Brigade, which is situated exactly opposite, were immediately in attendance with three hand engines. Upon the nature of the fire being understood, however, they were not brought into requisition, but the efforts of the firemen were directed to subduing the flames by throwing sand upon them, by which means they providentially succeeded in extinguishing the fire. Had the discovery not been so soon made, or the remedies not been so quickly at hand, it is utterly impossible to attempt to estimate the destruction which might have followed. The miscreant or miscreants who were engaged in this diabolical attempt had evidently, either from nervousness or some other cause, failed to carry out their intention in its entirety, as they had not thrown the bottle of liquid fire high enough to break through the glazed framework over the door. Fortunately it appears to have burst just beneath the glass, and its effects have been confined to severely scorching the door. The warehouses on which the attack was made present a frontage to Bishopsgate-street of 45 feet in width, and extend 135 feet to the rear, forming one side of Two Swan-yard; they are extremely lofty, comprising the basement and four floors and attics. The police have some of the remains of the bottle in their possession. It would appear to have been an ordinary soda-water bottle. We believe that it is the intention of the Messrs. Parnell to offer a reward of £100 for the discovery of the perpetrators of the outrage.

It was generally reported in the metropolis that a bottle containing Greek fire had been thrown, or attempted to be thrown, into a house situated in the Soho district, and upon inquiries at the police station the report was not contradicted, but all particulars were refused.

We understand that several large firms have received anonymous warnings that it is intended by the Fenians to make an attack of some kind upon their places of business. The police have been communicated with, and there is no doubt that any scoundrels attempting to carry their threats into execution will receive a warmer reception than they bargain for.

THE INTENDED FENIAN PROCESSIONS.

When the mayor of Liverpool issued his proclamation, the organizers of the funeral procession in memory of the so-called martyrs obligingly changed their tactics. The mysterious and unknown person who signs himself "A. J. O Shea," and styles himself chairman of the committee from whom the idea of the demonstration emanated, announced in a new poster that they would not disturb the peace of the town, and that they would respect the magistrates' prohibition. Accordingly, the locality

where the processionists were to assemble was changed from the Stanley-road, in the Northern district of Liverpool, to the Shiel-road, in the east, the reason for this change being that the greater part of the Shiel-road is situated in the county. The Irish quarter of Liverpool is the north, and here for the past week a very brisk trade has been carried on in crape and green ribbons. Of course, the alteration in Mr. O'Shea's plans became a matter of grave consideration to the county magistrates, who assembled on Friday and resolved that the procession should be prohibited in the county as well as in the borough. A proclamation to this effect, and worded similarly to that issued by the mayor, was posted conspicuously on Saturday. In the meantime the Liverpool daily papers had received and published a note signed by O'Shea, in which it was stated that in consequence of the determination of the county authorities the procession had been abandoned. This was very gratifying intelligence, if true; but it might be a ruse to throw the magistrates off their guard, and the preparations to prevent a demonstration were vigorously proceeded with. The next evening a deputation from the Orange lodges waited upon the justices who had signed a proclamation in the county, and assured them that, in consequence of the steps that had been taken to prevent disloyal meetings, the community to which they belonged had given up the intention of holding a counter-demonstration in memory of the murdered Brett.

The preparations which were made by the police were very simple, but perfectly adequate. The city and the county police determined to co-operate. The assistance of the volunteer corps of the district was counted upon and obtained. The men of the 1st Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, under Colonel Brown, and of the Liverpool Rifle Volunteers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Thomson, were sworn in as special constables. Major Faulkner, commander of the military pensioners, whose barracks are on the Tiverton-road, was communicated with, and the veterans received orders to be ready to render assistance in case of emergency. An order was made confining the military, consisting of the 7th Fusiliers and a detachment of the 15th Hussars, to their quarters, during Sunday. A large body of police was directed to take up a position at the Stanley-road, and another at the Shiel-road. Powerful reserves were stationed at Rose-hill Bridewell, and smaller parties distributed through houses adjacent to the appointed places of rendezvous for the processionists. A number of the constables were armed with revolvers, and the remainder carried cutlasses. A system of signals was determined upon for the purpose of communicating, if necessary, with Her Majesty's ship Donegal and the steam ram Napier, in the Mersey. Major Greig, the head constable of Liverpool, had evidently made the best of his resources; and it had been arranged that telegrams should be sent to the head police-office in Dale-street, should any disturbance occur in any part of Liverpool. Moreover, a fire-engine was sent out to the Shiel-road, whether in order to throw cold water upon the Fenians, or to extinguish a possible conflagration, we cannot say, and five or six prison vans were placed in the neighbourhood, in order that persons who might be arrested could be at once secured. The instruction to the police was not to delay their interposition until a procession was formed, but to prevent any formation, and to do so by keeping the people moving. Thus prepared for any contingency, the authorities awaited the event with a confidence which was shared by the great body of the peace-loving inhabitants of Liverpool.

From first to last the weather has been one of the worst enemies the Fenian movement has had to encounter. The snow and sleet which damped the courage and dispirited the assemblages of Fenians in the counties of Dublin and Tipperary last March; the rains which poured down upon the processionists at Cork and Dublin during the past fortnight, have been very efficient allies to the preservers of the public peace. On Sunday the weather was miserably depressing. Bais fell heavily. The roads were muddy, the air was damp and foggy. The streets of Liverpool, not generally so dull on Sunday morning as those of London, were almost deserted up to twelve o'clock. At the Roman Catholic Cathedral, at Copper-hill, where it was expected that the bishop, Dr. Goos, might take the opportunity of disavowing the male portion of the congregation from taking any part in the procession, the congregation was smaller than usual, and at least two-thirds were women. The collection was for the patrimony of St. Peter. At the proper period of the service the Rev. Mr. Powell, officiating priest, read a letter from the bishop, who was not present, calling upon the faithful to contribute liberally. The rev. gentleman prefaced his remarks by a few judicious observations regarding the projected funeral procession. He urged the men who listened to him to remember that the authority of the Church was arrayed on the side of peace and order. He reminded them that any demonstration, any display of emblems, would not only lead to a collision with the police, but would seriously embitter those religious animosities which it should be the object of Catholics and Irishmen to prevent. Then he took lower ground, and declared that such displays injured those who took part in them; that they led to idleness and quarrelling, and that they tended to impoverish the families of those who adopted this mode of expressing their political aspirations.

It was reported at the head-quarters of the police in Dale-street, says a correspondent, that already groups of people, evidently Irish, had begun to assemble at the Shiel-road. Proceeding to this place, which is about a mile and a half east of the St. George's Hall, I passed a large number of persons walking out in twos and threes in the same direction. The majority of these had unmistakable Irish faces, and were rather decently clad, but there was no display of green ribbons or crape. Arriving at the rendezvous I saw two or three hundred persons already assembled. The greater number evidently belonged to the working class, but about a third consisted of well-dressed young men, who were said to be Orangemen, but who, for all that appeared to the contrary, might simply have been sightseers. The place of assembly was at the point where the Shiel-road crosses the West Derby-road. The former passes in a southerly direction between the Shiel Park and Newsome Park. This suburb of Liverpool as yet contains comparatively few buildings, and where the roads intersect there is a large open space in which it would have been easy to form a procession. A drizzling rain fell, and the people who lounged about the side walks appeared perfectly drenched. The crowd increased until at two o'clock there were, perhaps, eight hundred persons present. At the corner of Shiel-road an individual on horseback remained for at least an hour, and he seemed to wield a sort of authority. Many of the men came up and spoke to him from time to time. At two he disappeared. About twenty policemen in uniform and many detectives mingled with the people. There was not the least noise or tumult until after two, when a superintendent of police rode up on a white horse, and was greeted with cheers by a portion of the assemblage. Shortly afterwards a large body of police arrived and the men were drawn up across the road. Some cheers were heard, but nothing seditious was said. Now and then as the constables attempted to disperse a group a crowd would gather, but the only shout I heard was "A cheer for Old England," which was heartily responded to. One man displayed a green ribbon, but was ordered off by a constable and dissuaded by his friends. At three o'clock an individual got upon a chair and made some observations, which were inaudible, but the purport of which was understood to be that the people should go home. After this many dispersed. A few minutes afterwards a county magistrate on horseback addressed the people to the same effect. The police then began steadily but quietly to press the spectators backwards. Throughout there was no appearance of a horse, and no disposition create a disturbance. The adjacent public-houses were thronged from one to three o'clock, but there was no quarrelling.

The Braddington Heirage.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA.

CHAPTER I.—THE MORNING.

THIRTY years since there stood (it stands now) in London Town an inconsiderable slip of a thoroughfare, which was (and is still) one of the channels of communication between the grand street that Naah, Prince of Architects, built for George the Fourth, and the grander square erected by some other Vitruvius or Palladio—whose name I never knew, but who was probably a German—for George the First. The great street is all stucco, and the great square is all red brick; but my inconsiderable slip inclined (and inclines still) more to the dinginess of the last than to the fineness of the first. This street (as it was, and is, and is to be, I presume, to the end of gentle Time, I will speak of it in the present tense) is not a handsome street. It is not a wide street. It has shops—shops both small and mean. A grocer, who sells candles, lives at one of its corners. He is not a wholesale grocer, not an Italian warehouseman; and his groceries are of so small a description as to warrant the suspicion that he was, at no very remote period of time, a chandler's shopkeeper. Nearly opposite to him there is a barber (he calls himself a peruke-maker, but he shaves, and for three half-pence; selling also valentines in the season, kites, penny canes, and cheap periodicals all the year round). There was, when I first knew the street, a greengrocer's within its precincts. There are yet several lodging-houses, a boot-shop, and two taverns that flout its gentility. Yet, with all these plebeian drawbacks, Little Maddox-street, Hanover Square, was, in eighteen hundred and thirty, as it is now in eighteen hundred and sixty—the most fashionable street in the greatest city of the world.

For in that formal, grey-stone, big-wig church of St. George's, right over against the street I have named, Fashion—ethereal, capricious, beautiful, glittering, happy Fashion—has, for upwards of a century, erected a high altar for the solemnisation of Matrimony. Since the death of Queen Anne, Fashion has elected to be married at St. George's. Fashion flutters and faints, and is fawned and furbelowed, there. It signs its name in the register; its jewelled hand trembling, its peachy cheek blushing through the roseate cosmetics prepared by Mrs. Atkinson, of Old Bond-

compeller with the large bright waistcoat—had not later than that morning expressed his surprise to Mrs. Muffit, landlady of the Silver Fish public house, that the parties about to be joined together in holy matrimony were not "titled folk;" for, as Mr. Scratte observed, "the dressings were perigious, leasway like a Lord (as there is Two follerin, and a real Lord the bridegroom's best-man looks), and the bridesmaids, which you could measure twice your harm on their sleeves, lettin' alone 'ats with ribbing enough to set you up, mum, in an 'aberdasher's whop; likewise more carriages as was seen since the day that Lord Viscount Baddington—and a noble gentleman he was—married Miss Treupenny, ten years ago come Christmas."

A score of carriages at least—no pill-box-looking broughams; no dowdy clarences fit only for nursemaids to take their charges an airing in; no perched-up cabriolets, with concealed horses and self-sufficient tigers; no compromises between chariots and flies—but real roomy, thirty-years-old carriages. They were inlaid with bright yellow, or of that peculiar shade of green known as "snuffy." They were addicted to red wheels; they had a leaning to hammer-cloths trimmed with fringe like that which my Lord, the chimney sweep, wears on his coat on May Day; they were bountifully plastered with the heraldic patchwork of their noble owners; they were, to say the truth, clumsy, ugly, old-fashioned vehicles, but they were comfortable, substantial, and luxurious. What has become of them now? I know many of them fell into decadence and hackney-coach-hood; but what has become of the hackney-coaches themselves? Where are they gone? Have they been transplanted and transported far beyond the seas? Are the aristocracy of the Cannibal Islands borne to his anthropophagous Majesty's levees in these bygone equipages? Are they driven by Cumanches coachmen in some out-of-the-way South American Republic, so happy that it is never heard of in Europe? Are they the roosting places of fowls in back-yards beyond mortal ken? Or are they indeed utterly broken up and scattered?

There was no possibility of mistaking the bride's carriage—it was so grand. It was a chariot with four grays; and the whole equipage may be emphatically characterised as "shiny." For metal and glass, and rubbing and polishing, and rich, smooth stuffs, had been employed with so lavish a hand in that connubial caravan, that you could see yourself in the window-panes, the panels, the horses' coats, the harness, the crimson jackets and brilliant tops of the postillions, their rubicund faces, white fluffy silky hats, shining spurs, and glistening favours, the very rumble and imperial, and axle-boxes, even. The vehicle diffused a perfume of



THE BRIDAL PROCESSION.

street; it leaves an odour of millefleurs in the vestry, it comes forth, smiling and skirt-trailing all lace and rich silks and gems, and perfect felicity (of course), down those fashion-worn vestry-room steps, to where the lightly-hung chariots, with their gleaming wheels and footmen in embroidery, are waiting; to where the silky-skinned horses curvet in their armored harness, pawing and stamping, and clamping their bits proudly, yet not with such a grace and dignity as are the special gifts of those other long-tailed, long-maned, coal-black steeds, which Mr. Resurgam, the undertaker, who lives only next door to the vestry-room, in Mill-street, owns—steeds which, in the course of time and business, have not unfrequently to curvet and stamp at Fashion's door, when the shutters are up and the blinds are down—when there are to be no more marriages, or giving away in marriage, and when Fashion is no longer Fashion, but Mortality.

You know that the vestry-room is but the second entrance—the back-door, in fact—of this aristocratic Temple; that in stately George-street, with its tall, shining windows, and red brick fronts with stone dressings, are the portico of the fane, and the broad flight of stone steps. I could never justly understand why the wedding procession should, so to speak, sneak out of the back-door, when, round the corner, it would come down to its chariots triumphantly, with room for coaches-and-six to turn, with ample space for a crowd to admire—for the charity boys to be ranged in line—for the bride, in his scarlet and lace, to be seen to advantage—for the bride to shine forth in all her beauty, youth, happiness, wealth—for the brilliant following to show their gay feathers in all their iridescence—for all the spectators to shout, and throw up their caps, if so they listed. But Fashion has said that it will come down those steps; and Fashion is an institution of so Eleusinian and inscrutable a nature, that it baffles reason, and calmly crushes consistency. Its laws, whatever they may be, and whoever framed them, are as those of the Medes and Persians. It is not for us, plebeians as we are, to question them; and they will endure, my brother, long after you and I have done with the two first sections of the first column of the *Times* Supplement (obtaining perchance not so much as a fleeting notice in the third compartment of that column), and are out of Fashion altogether.

One Tuesday, in the month of November, eighteen hundred and thirty, there was a grand wedding at St. George's, Hanover-square,—so grand indeed, that Mr. Scratte the headle—that stern boy-

affluence—Fashionable affluence, mind—that floated through Maddox Street, and was wafted up Mill Street, across Conduit Street, and so into Savile Row, where it stole into faded consulting rooms of pippin-faced old sages of the Fashionable faculty, and made those wise old ravens chuckle even as they coughed, thinking that Fashion, being married, would have children that would have chicken-pox and croup, and other ailments, from which even infant Fashion is not exempt. What does it matter if this effulgent equipage came indeed from a jobmaster's, and had its ordinary habitation in a livery-stable instead of the coach-house of a grand seigneur, and had in its time conveyed plebeian couples—the sons and daughters of enriched Piccadilly tradesmen perhaps—from humbler temples of Hymen? The banquet provided by Mr. Gunter is as succulent as the one dressed for us by our own professed cook. The stock of wine sent in half an hour ago by Messrs. Fortnum and Mason is as racy and enlivened as though it had lain for years in the dusty bins of our own cellar. Borrowed plate shines as brightly as our own silver, which we had not time to send for from the bankers'; Mrs. Buck, of Covent-garden, will accommodate us with bouquets as bright and sweet-smelling as those grown in our own conservatories at Ealing or Roshampton. People job a good many things now-a-days besides horses. Borrowed plumes are much worn this month—though I have not seen that announcement as yet in the *Pollet* or the *Journal des Modes*; and I don't think we are a thousand miles from a favoured country, where a man may job titles and decorations that shall stand him in as good stead as the coronet of a Howard or the riband of the Garter.

Lord Viscount Baddington's carriage-horses were rubbing their noses against the rumble of the bride's chariot, sympathising doubtless with their noble owner, who was at that very moment of time engaged in saluting the bride in the vestry. His Lordship's carriage was sympathetic too. It had a gouty look: his Lordship was afflicted with podagra. It was very yellow: his Lordship's complexion was that of an over-ripe shaddock. It shook a good deal: so did his Lordship. It was very soft and luxurious, very warm and lazy looking, very lofty and quite empty: all of which the world (which I do not believe) said were characteristics of his Lordship.

There was a carriage of the bride's papa and mamma, cosy and unpretentious, but wealthy-looking—O! quite Croesus-like in

yellowness. There was the private carriage of Sir William Gu? Baronet, of Oldtress Manor, in the County of Kent, and Member of Parliament for the borough of Mayford, which imposing coach (plum-coloured, turned up with scarlet) was not on the present occasion (and for certain reasons) in the occupancy of its proprietor, but had brought to this most fashionable wedding Compton Guy, Esq., the Baronet's only brother, and a cornet in His Majesty's Horse Guards Blue. There was old Lady Tottingham's carriage, with the well-known pair of vicious black horses which fought with and bit each other as they trotted; the carriage was at every wedding—nobody exactly knew why; and there were half a dozen more carriages and chariots belonging to nameless notabilities—the "supers" of Fashion, they may be called, whose principal occupation, it would seem, is to be rich, and drive about leaving cards, and fill up the backgrounds at births, and deaths, and marriages, whenever Fashion is born, or is wedded, or buried.

It had apparently snowed white favours during the night, so plentifully were those tokens of bridal felicity displayed on hats and jackets, in button-holes and horses' ears. Young girls in the crowd looked with a smiling roguish envy on those satin rosettes, thinking, perhaps, how many cap-ribbons had been spoiled for the decoration of grooms, and porters, and lacqueys; thinking perchance, how agreeable it would be to have a display of similar white favours at one's own wedding, instead of sitting up half the night in the milliner's stifling workroom, making them. For I have heard my grandmother say, that a wise cruel Ruler, once, addressing his subjects from his throne, told them that the march of civilisation was like that of an army, and could not be accomplished without leaving some victims in its wake; and my grandmother, good soul, had heard from her grandmother, I think, that Fashion marched somewhat like an army too; and would sometimes in its advance towards Ineffable Perfection, and Belgravia Beatitude, leave behind it pale cheeks, and swollen eyes, and aching hearts, with some poverty, and considerable anguish, and a little death.

The elements had been favourable to Fashion on this joyful occasion, and had politely provided a fine day with as cheerful a promptitude as the pastrycooks had provided the wedding breakfast, as the job-master had sent the four grays and the crimson-vested postillions, or as the Rector of St. George's had laid on an extra curate to assist him in his arduous labour of reading the marriage service. There was a November crimson fire-ball in the heavens like an artificial firework that Fashion could order and pay for. The fog had gone out of town for the day to look up a friend in Essex (William-of-the-Wisp, Esq., the Marshes, near Plaistow), and the sky was of that reluctantly cruel tint that resembles a rather yellow muslin window-curtain through which the sun is shining. But though passably fine overhead, there was underfoot as rich a stratum of good, thick, clinging mud as any covetous crossing-sweeper would desire to see and make a harvest by. There had been several political meetings of some low people called Radicals during the past week—fellows who wanted to be represented, or something of that sort, and were very troublesome; and the elements, again acting with fashionable high-spiritedness, had come down upon the rogues with rain, and had so drenched them, that they had remained, perforce, in their squalid homes, and the Prime Minister's windows had remained unbroken from Saturday to Monday. Hence the mud in Little Maddox Street; and hence the great agony and tribulation undergone by sundry exquisite, inappreciably more fashionable than any of the titled persons I have yet mentioned, more richly dressed, comelier in feature, taller in figure, loftier in demeanour, haughtier in conversation; but who, through the gross injustice, envy and partiality of Society, are never mentioned in the Court Guide, or the Morning Post or the Royal Red Book. I mean those honest gentlemen, who, for a certain yearly stipend, consent to put flour on their heads, and coals on the fire, and victuals on the table; to be called "John" when their name may be Peter; to wear silk stockings and particularised clothes; to walk before lap-dogs, and behind old ladies; to be what should properly and courteously be termed retainers, henchmen, adherents, servitors, attendants, valets if you will but what irreverent men persist in calling flunkies.



JOHN-PETER AND THE "SHAMEFUL THING."

(To be continued.)

THE PROBLEM OF THE DAY.—A judge at a cheese show in Ayrshire announced the other day his solution of what he called "the problem of the day." He advised that the young ladies who are in want of work, and likely to drift into the over-stocked governess market, should instantly apply themselves to the pursuit of cheesemaking—or, in other words, turn dairymaids. Then they would be able to earn from £20 to £30 a year, which is the present rate of payment; they would find the occupation "healthy, pleasant, and picturesque;" and, moreover, "there would be plenty of young men after them."

THE GARDEN.

HARDY FLOWER GARDEN.

LITTLE can now be done in this department, yet it may be well to remind the amateur that this is an excellent season in which to turn over his heaps of compost, leaf mould, or soils kept in stock for any purpose. Some make a rule—an excellent one, too—of removing successive frozen crusts from off the surface of the old stock, thereby causing the whole heap in time to become well exposed to the influences of frost.

HARDY FRUIT GARDEN.

A resumé as regards the culture of pears brings me to the subject of pruning these at a fruit-bearing age. Before, in dealing with younger trees, we have had only wood or furnishing shoots to encourage. Now, spurs, bearing flower-buds, must be sought after—the ready discernment of which, in contradistinction to the simple wood-forming buds, belongs, in most instances, to the long-standing practitioner alone. However, if any doubt exists as to whether any questionable-looking buds are one or the other, it is better to allow them to remain until spring solves the mystery. Cut back to two or three eyes, within an inch or two of the main shoot upon which they grow, all real woody shoots of last season's free growth. Caution is only needed with two-year-old ones, and upward. Where any such are too thickly set together, they require a little studied pruning, in order to allow of a proper development of parts when summer returns. Shorten back old fruit spurs to the lowest buds. Be careful in doing so not to injure these latter. In some instances some old spurs will produce such an influx of gross young shoots as positively deter any flower-buds from forming thereon. The spur in consequence becomes so enlarged as to be unsightly. All such it is better to remove as near the main branch from which they issue as possible, if certainly exists that the operation can be done without injury. So treat such trees, as a whole in fact, as to afford the greatest prominence to all future flowers, that the fruit may have a fair chance of forming favourably. Many old standard and other orchard trees of this class, through long neglect, have become prominent in decrepitude only. This oftentimes occurs from want of pruning alone. All such may be greatly benefited by a tree use of the pruning shears. Even some of the larger branches may be so reduced in bulk as to afford a greater amount of light and air to others, whilst the roots' abilities will also thereby be brought upon a more equal footing in relation to the upper branches. In pruning all large trees, endeavour as much as possible to open the centre of each tree, by which means light and air will be more freely admitted.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Potatoes placed in make-shift pits, &c., in order to ascertain what amount of disease they had about them, should now be looked over, and those that are good "climbed." There will not be any risk of their heating after this! Look through the stock of onions, removing any which show the least symptoms of decay; all such quickly infect all others in immediate contact with them. Give cauliflowers in frames additional protection according to the severity or otherwise of the weather. Batches of tarragon, mint, &c., should be placed in positions where they are likely to form a supply for future use. Spare frames placed over parsley, oregano, fennel, &c., in the open borders, may be the means of keeping a supply fit for use in February and March, when, if unprotected, and severe weather ensue, little of the general stock may remain. Take up and store away conveniently artichokes, horseradish, turnips, &c., for use in the event of severe frost.—W. E. in the Gardener's Magazine.

THREATENING LETTER TO A NEWSPAPER.

(From the Daily Telegraph.)

We give the following communications, word for word, as we have received them. The threatening letters are only two out of a number which have been recently transmitted to us:

THE OUTRAGE IN CLERKENWELL.—A DISCLAIMER.

(To the Editor of the Daily Telegraph.)

SIR,—The opinion having been circulated through the entire public press of Saturday that the body known as the Fenians are to be held responsible for the murderous atrocity committed on Friday at the House of Detention, we beg leave to inform you as follows:—

1st. That we, the London Committee, on behalf of the thousands of Irish Republican Brothers resident here, whom we represent, emphatically disclaim any connection, direct or indirect, with that outrage; or as being accessory to it in any way before, during, or after its commission.

2nd. That we pledge ourselves to do our utmost to discover the perpetrators, and that, having discovered them, we shall make them amenable to our laws, and carry out on them the punishment that they so richly deserve; thus, for once acting in conjunction with the British Government, in order to vindicate our name before the world, and to show that we do not war on women and children, but with men—honourably and according to the rules of war.

3rd. That from inquiries set on foot immediately the terrible news reached us, we have reason to believe that it has been the deed of individuals acting from personal motives and impelled to it by one whom, if our suspicions be verified, we shall execute without compunction as one unworthy to live in our own interest as well as in that of humanity at large.

THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF THE
IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD.

"GOD SAVE IRELAND!"

London, Dec. 14.

So, Mr. Editor, we are not defunct yet. Last night Clerkenwell trembled. Who shall say where we may strike next?

"The blood of Allen cries aloud for vengeance." "Blood for blood" is your motto; you shall have it.

England shall rue the day that she murdered our three men at Manchester.

Even now we are preparing you plenty of work.

Now for a little advice: Keep the Police at a more respectful distance, or, if not, your premises, being composed principally of brick and mortar, may possibly come tumbling about your editorial ears. Always recollect that there is another "Force" in London besides the Police force—that force is the Fenian force, and a mighty force, it will prove, too.

Therefore, take a Fenian's advice, and

"GOD SAVE IRELAND!"

BEWARE.

London, Dec. XVI.

"The blood of Allen cries aloud for vengeance." [This sentence is written in red ink.]

How do our Saxon friends like the inextinguishable "Greek Fire?" Perhaps 'twould be as well to intimate for the benefit of the public at large, that we have a goodly supply, and know full well how to use it.

"GOD SAVE IRELAND."

JUST OUT, STEAM ENGINES (Patent), price 1s. 6d. each, of horizontal construction, manufactured entirely of metal fitted with copper boiler, steam pipe, furnace, &c., complete. Will work for hours if supplied with water and fuel. Sent carriage free, safely packed in wooden cases, for 24 stamps.—TAYLOR BROTHERS, 21, Norfolk-road, Rensselaer-road, Islington, London. Established 1859.—[ADVT.]

LITERATURE.

"The Public Schools: Winchester, Westminster, Shrewsbury, Harrow, Rugby. Notes of their History and Traditions." By the author of "Etoniana." Blackwood and Sons.

THE Dean and Chapter of Westminster have been urged by the Public School Commissions to provide additional servants, so that junior boys need no longer call their masters, rake the clinders out of the grate, make and light the fires, boil the water for breakfast, stand sentry during the day, and carry a constant supply of stationery in their pockets. These customs existed at the date of the visit of the Commissioners. In other respects Westminster has improved:—

"The roughnesses of Westminster life have, however, been considerably smoothed of late years. The dormitory in old times was like nothing known to mortal schoolboys except Long Chamber at Eton. It was all one long open room where the whole forty boys slept in public—the juniors in not much greater comfort than the 'casuals' in a modern union. The windows were continually broken, and never repaired but during a vacation. In the winter time the atmosphere was consequently often at freezing-point; and this was taken advantage of by such seniors as were given to vigorous exercise, to order the fags out of bed, when a frost had set in decidedly, to pour water down the middle of the room, so as to ensure a practicable slide by the morning. The advance of science had even taught them to use boiling water, as freezing more rapidly than cold. This same floor was on one occasion converted into a draught-board. It was chalked out into large squares, and on each square a junior was stationed: two of the seniors, standing on an adjoining table, played a game at draughts with these human pieces; and when a 'king' was made, his representative had to carry, by way of crown, a small boy upon his shoulders. The beds were not luxurious at the best, and did not impress visitors very favourably. When George IV., as Prince of Wales, came to the play, and passed along the dormitory, he said to the master who escorted him: 'You don't mean to tell me, sir, that Arthur Paget ever slept in one of those beds?' But a junior was often obliged to lend his own pillow to improve his senior's accommodation, and to content himself with the most convenient log he could pick up out of the firewood. Rate at one time almost disputed the right of occupation. Leather braces had to be hung up somewhere out of reach, or there was only a mangled remnant and buckle or so to be found in the morning. A nobleman now living awoke one night with a rat hanging to his ear; and it is well remembered that a present Archbishop, missing his surplice just before early prayers, found one small corner of it sticking out of a rat-hole, and thus barely rescued it in such condition, as may be guessed, from these indiscriminating ting marauders. They furnished sport for their enemies, of course, in their turns. Hunts, like those which Porson remembered with such gusto in the Eton Long Chamber, enlivened the nights at Westminster. Traps of all kinds were set; and one ingenious sportsman contrived a small battery of brass cannon, in front of which the victims were tempted by baits of toasted cheese."

"Memoirs of Sir Philip Francis, K.C.B., with Correspondence and Journals." Commenced by the late Joseph Parkes, Esq. Completed and Edited by Herman Merivale, M.A. Two vols. Longmans and Co.

IN the month of October, 1740, there was born, in Dublin, the only child of his parents; that Philip Francis who would not have lived so long as his father in the estimation of posterity but for the fact of his being one, and the most prominent, of the three dozen and odd individuals to whom has been attributed the authorship of the Letters of Junius.

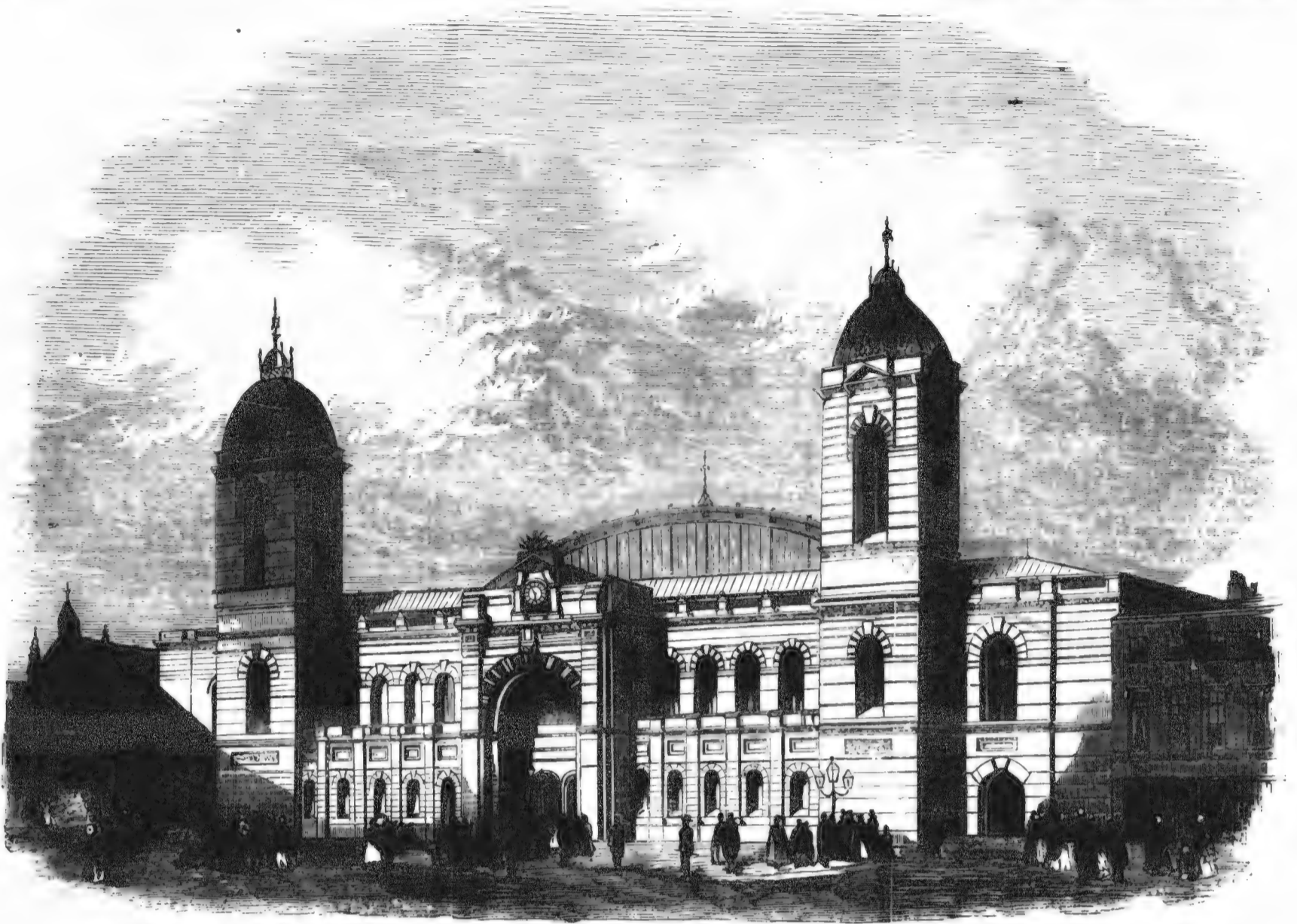
But the public life, whose incidents are so familiar, fades in interest when compared with the private circumstances of Francis's career. His wife and family did not accompany him to India:—

"Mrs. Francis kept for her husband's benefit, during his absence, a regular journal of domestic events, which she despatched to him from time to time. It is the production of a tenderly attached and admiring wife; but devoted almost exclusively to the record of the progress of the six children, their studies and their gaieties, her own little incursions into a social world for which she was by no means made; her solicitude for her own family and parents (until the death of both in 1777); and the vicissitudes, of which something has already been said, of her economical affairs. But it is touching in its homely way, as it shows the gradual effect of distance, and the evil influences engendered by long absence, on domestic love which had been so deeply rooted as theirs; until she, so absolutely confiding at first in her fondness, is forced to say at last, 'I was but too sure separation for seven years would make a great alteration in your affection; and indeed I am sorry to say, I fear it has a very great one indeed.' She was not, however, qualified to be a sharer in his plots, nor a partner in his fierce ambition, nor to partake in his public or literary pursuits; and her simple cares, hopes and sorrows are better left unrecorded."

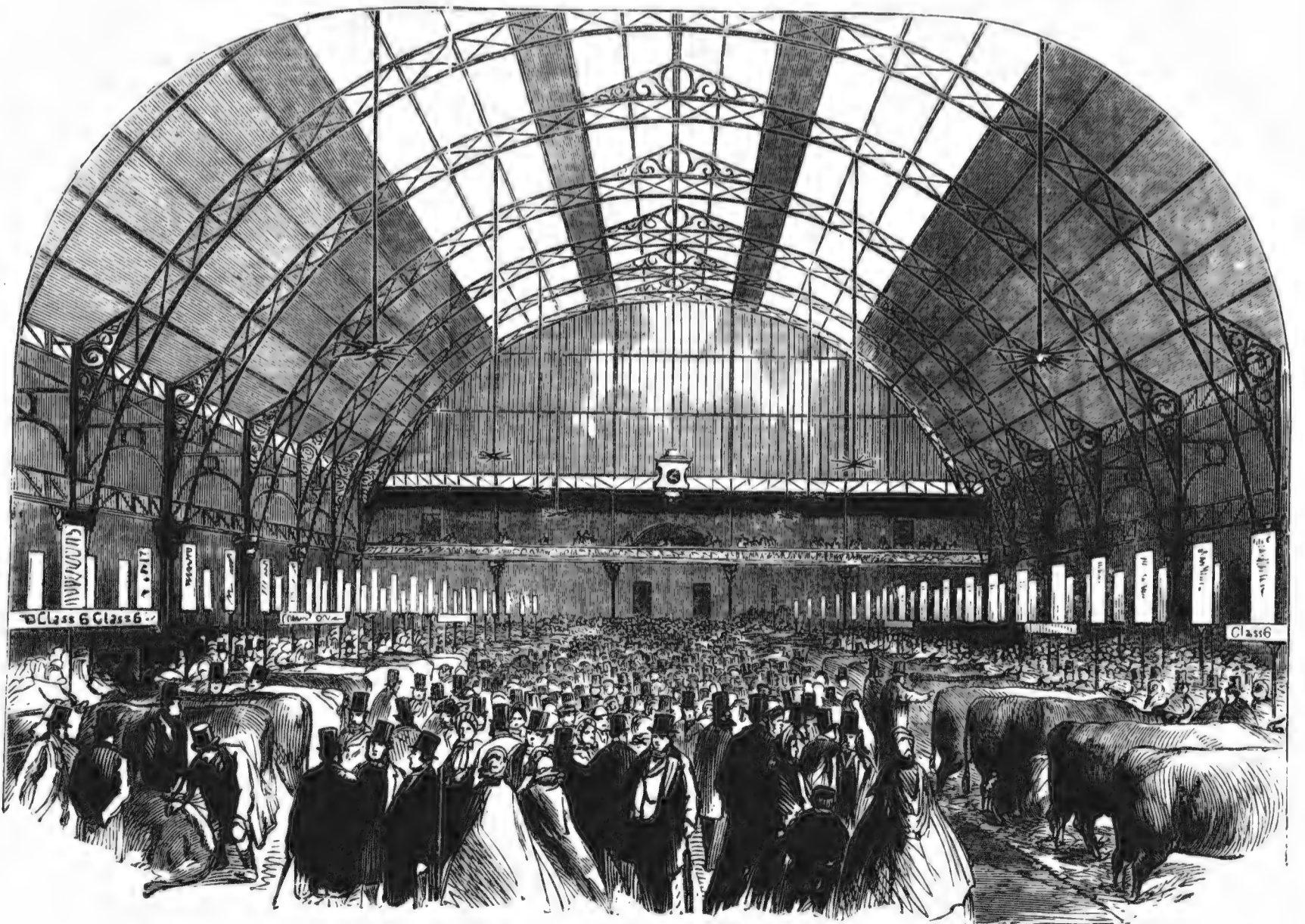
Francis hung about the Regent's court, and so grew into the Regent's intimacy as to laugh at his Royal Highness's exaggerated style of singing, without stirring the Prince to more than good-humoured remonstrance. The "decision" which formed a part of his character entered even into his religious feelings. "God knows I am but a sinner," said Sir Philip, allowing that much knowledge to Omnipotence, but adding, as his own opinion, "I believe I am now a better Christian than most of the saints, at least according to the Gospel."—"I have more real religion," he said on another occasion, "than any man I know." In smaller things, too, his peculiar character was prominent. If a man blundered in a story, he would help him to flounder in it deeper still, and there leave him. When he took a lady to a dinner, and thought aloud on the hand which rested on his arm, in his expression, "God! what a flat," he was a sort of Junius whose bold offences were not to be attributed to Sir Philip Francis. It was not always possible to determine whether he was "anonymous" in the utterances of sententious philosophy, or the identical man he seemed to be. "On one occasion, in a large company, he enunciated as the most valuable result of a life's experience the following pithy sentence:—'Never give, never lend, never pay anything to anybody on any account.' Francis was not so hideously selfish as to give practice to this maxim, but many of his contemporaries were. Among them, Major Baggs, type of the gentleman-blackguard, who won and lost £100,000 at the gaming-table, fought eleven duels, and ruined forty persons at the serious matter called "play." The intemperate side of Francis's character was not subdued by physical suffering. When suddenly attacked by severe illness, at Lord Thanet's, in Kent, he received his doctor in full dress, with the remark, "If you think I am going to die, tell me at once; I can't die here—it's impossible; so, if you can't do anything for me, say so at once; I'll order horses directly, post up to town, settle my papers, see Dr. Warren, and die like a gentleman." And when his hour did come he did die "like a gentleman," perfectly self-possessed, without vulgar disturbance, leaving a bit of the true Sir Philip in that part of his will in which he said, "I positively order that I may be buried as privately as possible, and at the least possible expense."

THE GESE MARKET AT STRASBURG.

It is estimated that nearly two hundred thousand geese annually pass through the market at Strasburg, a view of which, and also the feeding grounds of the geese, will be found on page 724. The market is mostly conducted by women, as is also the fattening and killing of the geese.



THE CATTLE SHOW.—THE EXTERIOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.



THE CATTLE SHOW.—THE INTERIOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

AMENITIES OF ROWING.

A ROWING man passes his whole day, and day after day, if he chooses, in some occupation connected with his favourite sport. When he is not actually rowing, or running, or conscientiously devouring his allotted modicum of victuals, he may be picking up gossip, proving to the satisfaction of his own crew that they did the course the day before in 8min. 19 sec. instead of 8min. 21sec., and that their rivals were at most 2min. less, which is not enough to secure a success. Or he may be going through some subtle piece of diplomacy,—persuading some man to row whose friends, or studies, or health forbid it, or simply lounging about in a dignified manner at some other resort, with the pleasant unconsciousness that men are whispering behind his back, “There is the stroke of the Boniface boat,”—as perhaps in the larger world, though vanity is no longer so simple or so easily satisfied, a man may like to be pointed out at a club as the future solicitor-general, or the best candidate for the vacant bishopric. Little knots of such enthusiasts gather together in each other's rooms, when they might be better employed, and discuss the prospects of the next races eagerly as their elders canvass the state of the Funds. And the day ends,

STEPHEN LANGTON.

WHEN history becomes true to her high vocation, Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury (1207—1228), will stand out as the most prominent figure in the records of the Plantagenet line, and yet we shall be speaking within bounds if we say that he is, at the present day, the least known of all our country's benefactors, historians great and small having seemingly conspired to grant him honours as grudgingly as possible. Even Hallam, usually so rigidly just, has dismissed his services in a couple of lines. It is his life, as bound up in the great foundation of English liberty, we propose briefly to trace in the present paper. Whether we view Langton as a scholar, an ecclesiastic, or a statesman, we shall find him alike worthy of the best efforts of the biographer and the closest scrutiny of the student; but it is mainly as a statesman, disinterested amidst so much selfishness, generous amidst so much petty tyranny, pure amidst so many inducements to self-aggrandisement, morally brave amidst so much moral cowardice—the contrary in everything of his king—that he merits a page in history. There is a great dearth of materials for the life of Langton, and his character is chronicled in great deeds rather than in the

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERVISION OVER RAILWAYS.

“BRECONENSIS,” writing to the *Times*, gives the following instance of the parliamentary supervision over railways, for which the shareholders in those undertakings have to pay so heavily. The Brecon and Merthyr Railway, sixty-six miles in length, was contracted for by Mr. Savin at £10,000 a mile—say £700,000. Nevertheless, shares and debentures were issued to the contractor until its construction cost £2,000,000, being at the rate of £30,000 a mile. In this amount there are no less than ten kinds of preference shares, each ranking in order of date, and fourteen issues of debentures, also ranking in order of creation. After this enormous outlay the company applied to the Board of Trade, under the General Railway Act of 1864, and without any sanction of new lines obtained leave to create £570,000 of fresh preference stock and £190,000 of fresh debentures, for which they have not yet found a market. A meeting took place on Tuesday last, for the purpose of authorising the chairman to issue £20,000 of this capital for the construction of and with a special hypothec on a branch called the Ivor and Dowlais, authorised in 1865, but not yet commenced. In reply to a question, the chairman, who has held office since 1864,



AGRICULTURAL HALL.—LONG HORNED SCOTCH STEER.

perhaps, with dinner and a prolonged chat with some celebrity of former times, who discourses of races won by eighteen inches, of the great struggle when the losing crew imitated the fabulous feat of the Vengeur, and rowed till the water reached to their waists, of the more ancient race when the immortal seven-oared crew defeated their antagonists with eight, and of contests in still remoter ages, some of the actors in which have long since attained to bishoprics or high state offices.—*Saint Pauls.*

ORDINARY LUCIFER MATCHES.—The Secretary of the Sun Fire Insurance Office stated to the Commons' Select Committee on Fires of last session, that he considers that carelessness in using ordinary lucifer matches causes to that office a loss of £10,000 a year. Surely statements of this kind should induce everyone to use only BRYANT & MAY'S Patent Safety Matches, which are not poisonous, and light only on the box. These Safety Matches are very generally sold by Grocers, Oilmen, &c.

IN consequence of the Reduction in Duty, Horniman's Teas are now supplied by the Agents, Eightpence per lb. cheaper. Every genuine packet is signed “Horniman and Co.”—[ADVT.]

fulsome biographies of his contemporaries. The curtain of uncertainty first draws aside to reveal to us the young student at Paris, eminent as a poet, a biblical scholar, and a lawyer, and the friend of the future Innocent III.—*St. Pauls.*

THERE is no truth whatever in the rumour, so persistently circulated in Westminster Hall, that two of the members of the judicial bench contemplate retirement. Both of the learned judges referred to are in good health, and as willing and able to work as ever they were. And as to Vice-Chancellor Wood, we hear from a direct source that he has at present no idea of retirement.

THE Diastatized Organic Iron and the Diastatized Organic Iodine are now fully appreciated by the English public as a pleasant and efficient mode of taking iron and iodine. Unhoped-for cures have been effected in a number of cases in which the other preparations of iron or iodine have been found incapable of being supported by the patients. Thanks and testimonials are received every day from all parts. In fact, these medicines, under their pleasant form, are found the most efficient.—Sold by all chemists, 2s. 9d. per bottle. Take note of Dr. Victor Baud's signature on the Government stamp, without which none are genuine.—[ADVT.]

admitted that the Act of 1865 had authorised the creation of Ivor and Dowlais shares and debentures for this same amount of £20,000, and had specially enacted that the money should only be applied to that purpose; that Ivor and Dowlais shares and debentures for £20,000 had been issued specifically under that name, and are now existing, but that the money was not appropriated to the line, which was never commenced, although of such vital importance to the company that it is now found necessary to raise the money for its completion over again. “Breconensis” commends this case to the attention of Lord Redesdale.

SATURDAY being the anniversary of the death of the lamented Prince Consort, the Queen accompanied by the Royal family, went to the Mausoleum at Frogmore, where Her Majesty remained for some time. The Queen returned to the Castle at twelve o'clock, and passed the day in complete retirement. After the Queen's return to the Castle the Mausoleum was, by Her Majesty's command, opened for all the members of the Household, including the servants, residents within the Castle, and most of Her Majesty's tradesmen in Windsor, to visit it.

LAW AND POLICE.

A FLASH CARD.—Frederick Cook, 19, of Mint-street, in the Borough, was charged with stealing a silk handkerchief from a country gentleman. It appeared that about eleven o'clock, Edward Bell, a messenger, was opposite the Mansion House, and observed the prisoner putting his hand into several gentlemen's pockets, while another man not in custody was close to him covering him. A gentleman passed them, and they followed him to a bank in Lombard-street, and waited about a quarter of an hour for him to come out. When he came out they followed him again, and at the corner of Basinghall-street, at the corner of Gresham-street, the prisoner took the gentleman's handkerchief out of his pocket. Bell then seized him, and took the handkerchief from his hand. The handkerchief was identified by Mr. Walter Lacey, of Honiton House, Exmouth, who stated that he did not miss it until Bell attracted his attention to the circumstance.—Thomas Jenkinson, 641, said that when he searched the prisoner he found on him a flash card, of what is termed among thieves a "friendly lead," or, in other terms, a raffle to assist a fellow thief. It is somewhat curious, and is as follows:—

"Let us join our hands to help a friend,
For all must to Dame Fortune bend:
The motto is to live and let live,
So let us be there and our mite give."

A friendly lead will be held on Friday, Dec. 13, 1867, at the Wooden House, Redcross-street, Borough, for the benefit of Robert Spriggs, better known as 'Young Snobby,' who is in great distress. Music provided. To commence at eight o'clock. Chairman—Johnny Top-boots.—The Prisoner owned to taking the handkerchief, but everything else the witness Bell said was false.—He was not known to any of the officers who had seen him, and therefore he was remanded to be seen by Agar, of Holloway Prison.

MISTAKEN BENEVOLENCE.—After the remanded cases had been disposed of at the Southwark Police-court, a gentleman named Nichols entered the court to point out to his worship the unworthiness of a woman called the widow Bellew, for being a recipient of the bounty of the benevolent. He said that he was the landlord of 35, Lambeth-square, in which Mr. McCaul alleged that she and her husband lived; and that he (Mr. Nichols) knew that they were not married. He also stigmatised the whole of the statements made by Mr. McCaul to be falsehoods. Bellew had not been lingering twelve months, as in fact he worked for him on three houses in Lambeth-square about a month prior to his death. The woman was not detained upon for rent. In fact, she took two vanloads of goods away when she left, and she was not in the distress set forth so falsely by Mr. McCaul.—The latter, who stated that he acted on the authority of Dr. Munday, of Moore-place, Kennington-road, to whom he was an assistant, said that he certainly did not know whether the deceased was married to the woman, but he knew her to be in distress, and Mr. Munday thought it was a case for the assistance of the benevolent. The father of the deceased told him that the goods had been detained upon, and he (Mr. McCaul) thought it was so. He could not say anything further.—Mr. Partridge was of opinion that it was a gross instance of attempted imposition on the benevolent, and he thought if Mr. Munday had directed Mr. McCaul to make such false statements the least he could do was to attend and make an apology. There were about £3 in hand for Mrs. Bellew, which he should not part with to her, but unless he heard on the contrary from the donors he should transfer that sum to the poor-box.

A PRAISEWORTHY EXAMPLE.—At an interval in the ordinary business of the Lambeth Court, a lady stepped forward and presented the following letter to Mr. Woolrych:—"Dear Sir,—A little child has much pleasure in sending to Mr. Elliott £10 for the poor-box, and being her first offering would like to see an acknowledgment of it in the papers.—Yours, Ada, 10, Percy-terrace, Dec. 12." Mr. Woolrych, smilingly thanked the bearer of the donation, and expressed a hope that other "little children" would follow the example. Other subscriptions were received from C. L. £1; and £5 (note), from M. R. G.

CASES ARISING OUT OF THE EXPLOSION AT THE HOUSE OF DETENTION, CLERKENWELL.—There were eight cases brought before Mr. Barker of picking pockets, and in some instances boldly robbing the parties of their watches, breast pins, or, in fact, anything which could be laid hands on. It was observed in court, and it really seemed to be the case, that whenever a great calamity occurred which would be calculated to attract a crowd the thieves were in numbers as if they had fallen from the clouds like drops of a shower of rain. In the present instance, there appeared to be a great combination amongst that fraternity, and from portions of the evidence there could be no doubt that large gangs of thieves had brought the co-operative system into full play, as far as their peculiar "profession" went. This was also evident from the conduct of the prisoners who had been convicted. After they had been placed in the cells some prisoners called to others, and the voices being recognised by other convicted prisoners, the conversation became almost ludicrous. One prisoner asked of another prisoner, "What! you're there, too, Bill? What have you got?" The reply was, "Oh, they knowed me for a little 'un, so I got four moonies." Another having made a similar inquiry of Jack, was answered, "Six lunars is the time I'm in for; that's the way they swore my life away;" and a conversation was then carried on between them which if the magistrate had heard before passing sentence might have materially altered the term of the gentlemen's incarceration. The following cases were disposed of:—

Henry Owen, 21, was charged with stealing a watch from the person of Thomas Picton, in Bowling-green-lane.—This was a case in which the prisoner snatched the prosecutor's watch whilst he was looking at the wall of the House of Detention which had been partially demolished by the explosion;—Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

Wm. Segers, 16, was convicted of stealing 5s. 6d. from the person of Wm. Conway, in Bowling-green-lane.—It appeared in this case that it was one of picking pockets, and that the prisoner had not acted in conjunction with other parties.—Mr. Barker sentenced him to four months' imprisonment.

John Wm. King was charged with an attempt to pick the pocket of Mrs. Elizabeth Heath, in Corporation-lane, Clerkenwell.—The prosecutrix was also one of the anxious visitors to the scene of the explosion, when the prisoner tried his abilities upon her, but they not being up to the mark he was detected, and given into custody.—As there appeared to be some little doubt about the matter, Mr. Barker discharged him with a caution.

John Allen was charged with stealing a silk handkerchief, from Charles Goddall, in Bowling-green-lane.—No prosecutor being in attendance he was discharged.

John Lloyd was also charged with attempting to pick pockets in the now celebrated Bowling-green-lane, and was remanded for the police to make inquiries concerning him.

William Dawson and Alfred Wiggins were charged with stealing a gold pin from, and attempting to pick the pockets of, Mr. John Henry Hoepf, in Bowling-green-lane.—The evidence against Dawson being very conclusive he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, whilst that against Wiggins being doubtful he was discharged.

Frederick Bellows, 16, shoemaker, was also charged with attempting to pick pockets, and stealing 4s. from Edward Matthews.—The case was clearly proved, and the prisoner was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

DETAINING A DOG.—Mr. Albert Masterson, the landlord of the Bolton Abbey Tavern, Lonsdale-road, Westbourne-grove, appeared

to answer a summons, charging him with unlawfully detaining a large brown retriever dog, the property of the Rev. John Light, who did not attend, but was represented by Thomas Blunderfield, the verger of his church.—Mr. Martin, who defended, explained the reason why his client was summoned. On Wednesday week last two boys brought the dog to his house, supposing that it belonged to him, as he had advertised the loss of one. Finding that the dog was not the one which he had lost, and believing that it had also been lost by a gentleman, he detained the dog from the boys, who went away disappointed. On Thursday he met a constable and mentioned what had happened, but he had not heard of the loss of a dog of that description. He then advertised the finding of the dog in the *Morning Advertiser* of Saturday last. On that day Mr. Blunderfield called at the house and claimed the dog; but the defendant, feeling that he ought to be reimbursed the expense of the advertisement, declined to give it up until it was paid. Subsequently the Rev. Mr. Light went to the house, and, in the presence of his customers, accused him with being the receiver of stolen property. The defendant, therefore, thought he was entitled to have the case investigated, he having done all he could in the matter.—Mr. Dayman thought the defendant had a right to expect the repayment of the advertisement, seeing that it was through him the dog had been recovered.—Mr. Blunderfield said he never saw the advertisement. It was almost a public dog. (A laugh.) He meant that it was kept in such a position that any person going to the church could see it. He also said that he went to the police-station, and could not obtain any tidings of the dog.—Mr. Dayman said, as a matter of dry law he was bound to order the dog to be delivered up, but under the circumstances he should not grant costs.

DECEITFUL A CITY COMPANY.—Silvester Oddy, clerk, was charged before the Lord Mayor with obtaining money from the Saddlers' Company, by false pretences.—On the 3d inst., the prisoner, who is a freeman of the company, presented a petition to the court of assistants, praying that they would grant him a sum for the interment of one of his children, whom he alleged to be dead. The court granted £3 3s., and the beadle of the company, Charles Holbrook, after paying 19s. to Mr. Camden, an undertaker, to defray the expenses of the funeral, handed over £2 4s. to the prisoner. Shortly afterwards the company received information which induced them to make inquiries as to the prisoner's statement. They found that it was perfectly false, and that his child was not dead. The prisoner was then apprehended under a warrant of the Lord Mayor.—In reply to the charge, he said he had nothing to say in explanation, for his child was living.—The Lord Mayor remanded the prisoner.

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A NURSE BY HER MISTRESS.—Mrs. Mellor, wife of a respectable tradesman in St. George's-road, Southwark, was brought up on remand, charged with attempting to murder Mary Cutts.—It will be remembered that Cutts, a monthly nurse, had attended prisoner in her confinement, and during the last nine months had lived in the house. Prisoner and her nurse were on the best of terms, and the murderous attack made on the latter could only be accounted for by the supposition of unsoundness of mind. On the morning of the 1st of November, Cutts went down to light the fire, and while so engaged prisoner came behind her and struck her a violent blow with a coffee mill, which drew blood. Cutts called out "Murder!" upon which Mrs. Mellor rushed at her with a razor and inflicted several serious wounds. The case had been remanded for the attendance of the nurse, who had not been able to leave the hospital sooner.—The prisoner was committed for trial.

CHARGE OF BIGAMY AGAINST A BARONET.

Sir EARDLEY GIDEON CULLING EARDLEY, BART., has brought up in custody at Bow-street, upon a warrant charging him with having on the 12th of September, 1867, married a lady named Elizabeth Allen, his former wife, Emily Florence, being then and still alive.

Mr. Gifford and Mr. Grain appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. Montagu Williams for the defence.

Mr. Gifford stated that the prosecution in this case was instructed by the father of the real Lady Eardley to institute these proceedings in order to vindicate the honour of his daughter, to whom the prisoner had been legally married in New York in 1859. The second marriage had been performed publicly in London, and it certainly involved an imputation that he had not been legally married in the first instance. If the daughter of his client was the real Lady Eardley, the lady who now bore that title could have no just claim to it.

Mr. Montagu Williams inquired if his learned friend was prepared with proof as to the American law, to show that the first marriage was legal.

Mr. Gifford: I can relieve my friend's anxiety. I am prepared with some evidence.

Mr. Florence: I should think you have not relieved his anxiety. Mr. McGee, 3, Manchester-street, Hyde-park, stated that he was residing in New York in 1859. His daughter, Emily Florence, was residing with him at that time. At that time he knew the defendant, who was engaged to his daughter. On the 12th of December witness was present when they were married in the usual way by a person purporting to be a clergyman in holy orders, at Calvary Church, an Episcopal church in the diocese of New York. They lived together as man and wife some months after—in fact as long as witness remained in New York, and he believed, afterwards. He saw the parties sign the register in a room attached to the church.—Cross-examined: He was then Mr. Eardley. Witness first knew him in November some three or four weeks before the marriage. Had been previously aware of the engagement. There were a number of persons present; amongst others, Mr. Cyrus Field, and a gentleman now in court. The register was not signed by witnesses; that is not usual. There was no ceremony at the consulate.

To Mr. Gifford: Witness's daughter is still alive.

Mr. Charles Moseley, of 88, St. George's-street, gentleman, deposed that he was present at the marriage, and also in the vestry, or room adjoining the church; he was not sure whether it was called a "vestry." He was not sure that he saw the registry signed, but he understood they were doing so.

Mr. Richard Henry Bannister, the registrar of St. George's, Hanover-square, proved the prisoner's marriage before him with a lady named Elizabeth Allen.

Mr. Robert de Franz Gould, of Walthamstow, deposed that he is a barrister of the American bar, and has practised for many years at New York. If the marriage was performed as stated, it was a legal and valid marriage. It was not necessary that it should be entered in the registry. That was sometimes done, but it was rather an exception.

Cross-examined: Witness had no authorised copy of the law here. In the State of New York the facilities for marriage were greater than in any other State of the Union. No proof of domicile was necessary, nor any marriage at the Consulate. No witnesses are required.

Mr. Montagu Williams: Then any young couple have only to walk into the first church they come to, and get married?

Mr. Gould: They may walk into a church, or into a private house, and if they liked they could do it in the open air.

Mr. Gifford: So they might in England until the statute of George II.

Mr. Stretton, of 3, Gray's-inn-square, solicitor, produced a deed of separation between the prisoner and Lady Eardley, executed by them and by her father (Mr. McGee) on the 2nd of October 1863, in which she is described as "his wife."

William Buck, one of the warrant officers of the court, proved

the apprehension of the prisoner at 5, Grosvenor Villas, Junction-road, Upper Holloway, upon the warrant produced.

Mr. Maryon Williams observed that Mr. Gifford had not proved the law of New York in the proper manner, which was by producing an authenticated copy of the law of New York. He referred to Roscoe's "Digest," p. 394, which recites *Clegg v. Levy*, 3, Camp, 166.

Mr. Gifford said that had since been overruled.

Mr. M. Williams: I should like to see the cases overruling it. Mr. Gifford said they would be produced at the time.

Mr. Montagu Williams said they ought to be produced here. Mr. Gifford declined to give the references.

Mr. Williams said the defendant wished to state that he was perfectly under the impression that the first marriage was illegal, and that therefore he was at liberty to marry again. Having been so advised (though not by him, Mr. Williams) the (defendant) fully believed that he had a good defence. He hoped the magistrate would take bail.

Mr. Gifford said he understood that the defendant was an outlaw. Mr. Montagu Williams: That is denied.

Mr. Flowers declined to take bail. Application might be made to a judge in chambers.

EAST LONDON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART SITE BILL.

(To the Editor of *The Illustrated Weekly News*.)

SIR,—As one of the promoters of the above Bill for securing to the artisans of London (who mostly reside at the east end) the blessing of industrial and art education, permit me through your columns to call Lord Redesdale's attention to one of the many misapprehensions into which he has inadvertently fallen, and thus unhappily deferred, we will hope only for a short time, the realisation of this great scheme, which, fostered by the far-seeing wisdom of the Government, I had hoped was on the point of being accomplished. I still trust that as soon as Parliament re-assembles this Bill may be passed, so that our artisans may in future be in a position to compete with foreign nations on more equal terms than at present. While foreign nations possess better means of art education, our workmen are at a great disadvantage in the race of free-trade.

The proposed Museum is no local affair, but designed as a national establishment, to give means of utilizing some of the treasures now stowed away in cellars for want of space to exhibit them.

Lord Redesdale takes exception to the Bill, "that it does not provide as to who the trustees of the Museum are to be;" and adds, "Was the Parliament to give powers of purchase to a trust not yet formed?" This is the point on which I submit his Lordship is mistaken, as I will try to explain. The facts are simply these:—The three gentlemen named in the Bill offered to raise funds to pay for the site in question if it was acceptable to the Government. This was in the time of the late Administration; so it is no party question, and Lord Granville, then Lord President, accepted the offer, and a report was made to Parliament recommending the scheme. This report, and the correspondence relating to it, will be found in the 13th report of the Science and Art Department. The Ministry was changed, and the scheme slept until, on the part of myself and colleagues interested in this matter, interested in this matter I had the honour of renewing the offer to the present Government. After very full inquiry and mature deliberation, the Cabinet approved the plan, and Parliament voted the necessary funds. On our part we submitted to the Government the Agreement for the purchase of the land which we had conditionally entered into with the Trustees. This draft having been approved by the Government, a regular deed under seal was executed by every person interested in the matter, and the local papers have been warm in its praise. No Government ever did a more popular or a more gracious thing for the million at the East End.

Counsel, however, at the last minute raised some legal and technical objections to the title, which it was thought could best be remedied by a short bill, which was prepared accordingly by Mr. Reilly.

The Bill recites that the three gentlemen named in it may purchase, but only for the purpose named in the deed of Purchase, and that the Trustees may sell, but only in order that the land may be handed over to the Government for the purposes of the intended museum.

Now what Lord Redesdale seems to have overlooked, is the fact, that by Royal Charter, bearing date the 30th April, in the 27th year of Her Majesty's reign:

"The Lord President of the Most Honourable Privy Council for the time being, and the Vice-President of the Committee on Education of the Most Honourable Privy Council, also of the time being, shall be a body corporate under the name of the Department of Science and Art, having a perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with a capacity in that name to sue and be sued, make contracts, purchase, take, hold, and enjoy, for the purposes of science and art, as well goods and chattels, 'As Lands and Hereditaments,' not exceeding 50 acres, without licence in Mortmain. And the said Charter of Incorporations further grants unto the said Department of Science and Art full licence and authority for the furtherance of science and art, to accept any trust, whether subject or not to special conditions, &c., &c."

Now all that the proposed Act is intended to do, is to enable the three gentlemen named in the Bill to make over this land to the Science and Art Department for the purposes named.

The proper office, I have reason to believe, certified that the promoters of this Bill (myself and others) had complied with the standing orders as to notices to the public, and the only reason that we or the Government had for pressing this Bill forward was, the hope of providing labour during the coming winter for many deserving poor now unhappily out of work; a reason which, I feel sure, will commend itself to the heart, not only of Lord Redesdale, but of every other person interested in this great work. The other matters referred to in his Lordship's speech will probably be replied to on the re-assembling of the House, and, in the meantime, the great cause of Industrial and Art-Education will, I trust, be advanced by the discussion, to which the grave matters involved in this movement for the benefit of our working classes is sure to give rise.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient, faithful servant,

ANTONIO BRADY,
Maryland Point, Stratford, one of the Promoters of the Bill.
14th Dec., 1867.

ABYSSINIA AND ENGLISH MERCHANDISE.—Every trade must be important to Great Britain which will absorb manufactured goods and furnish raw material in return. Mercantile interests on the eastern coast might therefore quickly be advanced by teaching the natives to have artificial wants, and then instructing them in what manner those wants may be supplied through the cultivated productions of the soil. The present is the moment at which to essay this; and so promising a field for enterprise and speculation ought no longer to be neglected or overlooked. The position of the more cultivated tribes inland, the love of finery displayed by all, the climate, the productions, the capabilities, the presumed navigable access to the interior, the contiguity to British Indian possessions, and the proximity of some of the finest harbours in the world, all combine inducements to the merchant, who, at the hands even of the rudest nation, may be certain of a cordial welcome.—*Hotten's "Abyssinia Described."*

THE DEVOURING ELEMENT.

A LARGE allowance ought certainly to be made for errors and exaggerations when an account of such an event as the burning of the opera house has to be written in haste and excitement for publication within an hour or two after it has happened. The description in the *Times* of Saturday—simple, vigorous, and effective—was an admirable specimen of that kind of writing, especially considering the difficulties under which it had to be produced. But even the ordinary accounts which are first published of such things are, as a rule, tolerably concise and graphic, and are commonly told in plain, intelligible English. It is on the second day when the subject has to be cooked up again that pathos becomes bathos, and "one account" vies with "another account" in extravagant language, inappropriate comparisons, and metaphors so strange and incomprehensible that imagination refuses to conceive them. Of course the fire of the preceding night is now the "devouring element"; the "calamity," which is real enough, is so "not only to the million inhabitants of London" (including, no doubt, those of Clerkenwell and the New Cut), "but of the countless thousands scattered through the three kingdoms, together with the foreigners of every clime." The notion of the Red Indian condescending to Sambo on the loss of Her Majesty's Theatre, or an Esquimaux bewailing the affair with the wife of his bosom during the tedium of the six months' night, is not a bad one. It is now discovered that there never was any "spectacle of greater magnificence" or which "inspired more terror," and the "evening was for ever memorable in the annals of the great city." "Fire" we are told, "is in all its aspects fierce and awing" (from the Lucifer match upwards), but in its dominion, and when the feeble powers of man shrink from its kingly countenance when reddening from majesty into anger, it becomes not only overpoweringly sublime, but something at which the best and bravest must tremble. It is fortunate that the firemen and police, who are probably as good and brave as any there, were not influenced materially in their nervous systems, but as many were present who were not exactly our best and bravest, it is curious the trembling did not become an epidemic. After this we proceed from great to greater; the "calamity" becomes the "awful catastrophe," the crowd is "an angry sea breaking in advancing tide upon a glowing shore." "Bickering, bursting, fast yellowing flames, turning from red to yellow and from yellow into a dazzling glory like countless gigantic flags." "Flames licked the timbers in their dreadful embrace like fiery ribbons." "Ribbons which lick timbers, and in licking also dreadfully embrace," is so wonderful a comparison that unless, as indeed is most likely, it is borrowed from the treasury of Mr. Swinburne's poems, we are at a loss to comprehend how it could be produced. The fire anon "swathed the roof in its majestically enfolding radiant mantle," finally, the pit became a "charred sea of fragments, black as the destruction was perfect, laid strangely over with its veil of white," "no one can describe the wondrous splendour of that mighty devastation." But our readers will admit that if any one can it is the individual who composed the passages from which we have ventured to quote.

A COMPARISON.

THE ex-Orleanist Minister who succeeded in eliciting from the Imperial Minister such a distinct profession of faith in under some apprehension lest Italy should never succeed "in establishing an accord between different States naturally jealous of each other," but he omitted to explain why the naturally component provinces, or counties of a kingdom, should entertain a mutual and natural jealousy. It may be pardonable in a Frenchman to be ignorant of the history of Egbert and the Saxon Heptarchy, for all that happened a long time ago, among a barbarous people, remote from the Lutetia Parisiorum. Scarcely more blameable is he for overlooking the fusion of Britons, Saxons, Danes, and Normans; for that, too, happened some time ago, among a barbarous people, remote from the centre of civilisation. But can it be that a French statesman should be ignorant, or forgetful, of the annals of his own country? Are there no records of the fierce jealousies that arrayed Frenchmen against Bretons, Lorrainers against Frenchmen, Burgundians against all the three? And yet "time's effacing fingers" have obliterated all those deep, blood-stained lines of separation. Why, then, should he despond because Italy has not effected in a decade what France failed to accomplish in a century?

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.—The meeting recently held in New York to advocate the adoption of a law protecting American citizens in foreign countries was the largest that has assembled in any American city in recent years. The building was surrounded by crowds unable to enter, sufficient to employ five or six speakers. The politicians of all parties who united in it, and the unanimity that prevailed, show that is a question that has taken a deep hold on the American mind; and there is reason to believe that a similar unanimity will prevail in Congress when the subject comes before it.

THE FRENCH AND THE POPE.—Speaking "in the name of reason and good sense," M. Thiers candidly expresses his belief that "the Pope is mistaken as to the limits of good and bad doctrines." This misapprehension, he characterises as "a misfortune," and very properly. What becomes, then, of the infallibility of the Pope? And yet the Marquis de Moustier asserted, with true French modesty, that "the French nation is the most Catholic in the world." It has, indeed, at times shown itself more Catholic than Papist, but still the Papal inability to go wrong in matters of doctrine has usually been held by all professors of the Catholic faith. If St. Peter's successor, if the viceregent of Christ upon earth, is mistaken as to the limits of good and bad doctrines, what is the use of maintaining either his spiritual or temporal power?

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